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EPTEMBER 17, 19

Japanese head of government to the Jewish state (see Inside). The Orient House is officially the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel and at multilateral Middle East negotiations which Japan participates in. Israel, which has banned any political activity by the PLO in East Jerusalem, opposes visits by foreign ministers to the Orient House but turns a blind eye to lower ranking officials. On Saturday, South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo visited the Orient House despite Israeli, objections.

Volume 19 Number 6023

Yanzi visits PLO headquarters in Jerusalem OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Japan's Deputy Foreign

Minister Shunji Yanai visited the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) unofficial headquarters in East Jerusalem on Sunday, despite Israeli opposition to such visits. Yanai held an hour-long meeting at the Orient House with Faisal Husseini, who is in charge

the Jerusalem issue for the Palestinian self-rule authority, a

of the sensurem assure for the resemble authority, a plo official said. The deputy foreign minister also met with six other Palestinian officials from various political groups, the official said. Mr. Yanai is accompanying Prime Minister Tomichi Minayama, who arrived here Saturday on the first visit by a lapanese head of government to the Jewish state (see inside). The other House is officially the headquarters of the Palestinian

# تَصَدُّرُ بِٱلْأَنْجِلِيزِيةَ عَنِ المؤسسةِ الصحفيةِ الأردنيةِ .الرأي،

AMMAN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1995, RABI' ALTHA- NI 23, 1416

Court refuses appeal by Brotherhood

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian court on Sunday refused to rule on an appeal to stop the military trial of 49 members of the fundamentalist group Muslim Brotherhood, legal sources said. An Islamist lawyer, Abdul Halim Ramadan, brought the suit against the decision by President Hosni Mubarak to put the men before a military court, arguing that the charges did not merit an army trial. But the court for emergency matters ruled it was unqualified to judge the suit and ordered it put before a court for administration affairs, the sources said. Defence lawyers of the 49 have raised a separate appeal against the trial, which will be heard by the administrative court on Oct. 3. If the case is won, the trial could be ordered moved to a civilian court, legal sources said. The trial began on Saturday, and they are accused of directing an "illegal organisation aiming at impeding the rule of law and constitution."

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# House panel's report of alleged gesting the 14th years of the descended on the 14th years of the 1 winched from the sky, the herac winched from the stage and sky the heaven of the stage and sky the sky the heaven of the stage and sky the sky

# Sharif Zeid rejects deputies' charges, affirms firm commitment to democracy

By Tareq Momani and a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Amman - A Lower House of Parliament Committee Sunday accused the executive authority of suppressing public freedoms and violating the rights of citizens but the government strongly rejected the charges and stressed that it remains committed to democracy.

The Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee accused the government of withdrawing citizens' fiveyear passports and replacing them with two-year passports as well as making arbitrary arrests and banning public meetings.

The charges were made in a report that the committee submitted to the House Sunday during its last meeting of the extraordinary session which started in June with a heavy load of its legislation on its agenda.

The state of polarisation in society after the signing of the peace treaty and the accompanying stressful situation have affected the ceiling of public freedoms." charged the report.

But Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker rejected the charges, adding that the report gives the wrong impression about the situa-

tion in the Kingdom. "The government does not agree with the allegations

returns from Beijing

Princess Basma

that the ceiling of public shrunk," Sharif Zeid said after 23 deputies took the floor to comment on the committee's 10-page report.

"In fact, the ceiling of public freedoms has been witnessing further heights and one look at local press is enough to realise that the freedom of expression some times exceeds the limits of the law," Sharif Zeid said. Members of the Islamic

Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc launched the strongest attack at the government, accusing it of unlawfully withdrawing the citizenship of Jordanians from Palestinian origin.

Bassam Haddadin, rapporteur of the Public Freedoms Committee, urged the government to abide by the law and to act "wisely" in dealing with the issue of citizen-

IAF member Ahmed Kassassbeh said the alleged withdrawal of citizens' passports reflects an abuse of the legal implication of the 1988 decision to sever links with the West Bank.

But Sharif Zeid said any citizen who feels he has been done injustice in this regard can resort to court.

"Nationality is a sensitive subject and the government refuses to see this question subjected to debate because (Continued on page 7)

Arafat would meet late into

the night to try to hammer

wider Palestinian self-rule.

"I estimate the negotia-

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Sunday underlined the importance of close cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities as a main guarantee for safeguarding public rights and freedoms and an essential element for ensuring national

security and stability. Sharif Zeid was addressing a Lower House of Parliament session during which the House debated a report by its Public Freedoms and Citizens Rights Committee that tackled issues related to political detainees, reports about withdrawal of passports from Jordanian citizens and public

The prime minister, who was replying to remarks by 23 deputies who addressed the session during the debate, stressed that the worst violation of human rights lies "in the absence of security, whether such violation was committed by an official authority or certain forces that work in the dark."

Sharif Zeid referred to the committee's report and said: "With due respect to the committee, the government does not agree with the allegation that the ceiling of public freedoms has shrunk."

"It is the committee's report which gives us this im-pression," said the prime minister. He said the report talked about a staste of polarisation and a state of tension through which the Arab citizen is going through at the moment claiming that it was a result of the change and the transformation from a state of hostility and war into a stage of peace, with all that they entail of change in terms of sentiments and feelings as well as the requirements of

at the local press is enough to see that the freedom of exsion sometimes exceeds the limits of the law," the prime minister said. He said that some of these reports indeed harm Jordan's relations vitu other Arab countries and some paint a picture of Jordan as a homeland of criminals and robbers.

"In fact the ceiling of free-

doms has been witnessing

further 'heights' and one look

"Furthermore some of the reports harm the interest of Jordanian farmers because they contain unfounded rumours about unfitness of vegetables and fruits for human consumption," the prime minister added. He said that the government has nonetheless left the matter for the citizens to judge and

(Continued on page 7)

# Jordanians, including the in-

Decree was issued Sunday adjourning with immediate effect the Lower House's extraordinary session which started in June.

Parliamentary sources de scribed the almost three-andhalf month session as one of the most important House sessions in view of the important issues discussed during

The House discussed 27 agenda items with direct impact on the higher interest of come tax law, investment law, and other economic issues. Perhans some of the most important laws endorsed by the House during the ones on ending economic boycott of Israel, the draft labour law, the telecommunications law, the draft income tax law, the draft revised sales tax law, the investment draft law and the

draft law on environment. The House also discussed policies of supply and prices,

ties and the Public Freedoms tee's report.

Among the other subjects

was the defection to Jordan

Middle East it was equally by Iraqi General Hussein important to build on what Kamel and members of his has been achieved so far in family on Aug. 8. The House the Arab-Israeli peace proalso discussed proposals made by some deputies on While the peace process public services and listened to has seen progress on all the government's replies to a tracks - going "beyond the point of no return" - and number of questions put forward by deputies. the Palestinians and Jordan have signed peace agreements with Israel, "it is important to bear in mind the distinction of the complementarity between mak-

> peace," he said.
> "Peacemaking may be the stuff photo opportunities are made of," the Crown Prince told a meeting attended by representatives of nearly 50 American pension funds under the theme "New

ing peace and building

common man and woman in the streets of our towns...' the Crown Prince told the meeting entitled the "Pen-The peace that Jordan seeks "can only be achieved

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday addresses a group of

**Prince Hassan outlines** 

Jordan's vision of new

Mideast to U.S. groups

Lands." But "peacebuilding

is the stuff that relates to the

representatives of American pension funds (Petra photo)

By a Jordan Times Staff

Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal High-

ness Crown Prince Hassan on

Sunday reaffirmed Jordan's

firm commitment to do what-

ever is needed under realistic

terms to contribute to the

building of a new Middle

East where all parties in the

region draw on their com-

plementarities and work in

concert with each other to

achieve economic develop-

ment in a state of peace and

The Crown Prince, addres-

ing a group of American

investment institutions,

emphasised that while com-

prehensive peace and stabil-

ire in the making in the

by a combination of qualities... of standing up to friends as well as enemies, of engaging in a ... two-way dialogue...," while firmly adhering to its commitments to democracy, political pluralism, and richness in diversity, the Crown Prince said. Jordan's record clearly

shows that its commitment to these principles are unshakeoie. De said On a parallel track, Jordan is also committed to free market economy, free trade

where free trade is essential.

and customs union wherever it is justified, he said. However, the key element to building a region based on complementarities needs a 'kind of comprehension leading to understanding...' he added.

Jordan has worked hard to reach where it stands today in terms of implementing "market-friendly reforms," as evidenced by the tribute given to the Kingdom by the European Union, said the Crown Prince.

He also referred to the major changes in the country's economic legislation the new income tax law, the

Opportunities in Ancient law on investment promotion, the law on protection of intellectual property rights, and the new companies law among others — as a clear indication of Jordan's fast moves towards adjusting itself to the economic realities

of a new Middle East. Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's speech:

The Crown Prince briefly reviewed Jordan's economic performance and the growth rate of the Kingdom's gross domestic product. He said the high mark given to Jordan by the International, Monetary Fund (IMF) for implementing a tight-knit economic reform programme rencouraging in the sense that the private sector and private investment had led to scope to resume their role as a dynamo for growth..."

'It is our hope that in what I have described as a realistic approach to peacebuilding will invite our partners in this exercise to develop a shared, realistic understanding of the inter-related levels of peacebuilding," said the Crown

The first element in peacebuilding, in Jordan's view, he said was "the trilateral partnership... between governments, international businesses and international financial institutions." In this context, the Crown

Prince said the Middle East

(Continued on page 7)

# Israel-PLO talks stretch into the night under U.S. pressure

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma returned home Sunday after heading the Jordanian delegation to the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women which concluded in Beijing on Sept. 15. In an afrival statement Princess Basma said the conference's results were good and reflected the efforts made by Jordan as well as the Arab and Islamic countries. She said these efforts resulted in a major amendment to paragraph 9 of the conference's n of action, which provided for respecting the state's sovereignty, principles and values when implementing the programmes, policies and strategies con-

#### **Kuwait, Turkey** discuss iraq

tained in the plan.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's loreign minister has ended a wo-day visit to Turkey where he discussed Iraq and oriateral ties, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said on Sunday. The minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said his talks with Turkish officials tackled the trade ban imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and economic ties between the two countries, KUNA reported. Turkey was part of a U.S.-led military coalition which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in February 1991. Sheikh Sabah delivered a cssage from Kuwait's emir, sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. Diplomats said part of Sheikh Sabah's mission was to review regional developments following the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of two senior aides to Iraqi President SadTABA, Egypt (Agencies) — . Israeli Foreign Minister Shithird meeting of the day with mon Peres said on Sunday he Mr. Arafat. and Palestinian leader Yasser

"We will hold a lengthy meeting tonight. There will be differences and agreeout an elusive agreement on ments but we will do our utmost to complete the negotiations," he said.

As a Sept. 21 target date Mr. Peres gave no indicafor a Washington signing tion what might happen if Israel and the PLO failed to ceremony neared, Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said meet the Thursday target they were still divided over date for an accord, already 16 the key issue of the West months behind schedule, on an Israeli troop pullback in the occupied West Bank and Bank town of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians. Palestinian elections. "I gave no ultimatums," he

tions will continue until tomorrow (Monda<u>y</u>) morn-Israel army radio reported U.S. officials were pressing ters in the Egyptian Red Sea for clear word on Sunday

resort of Taba, before his night on whether a White House signing ceremony could be held on Thursday. Asked about U.S. press-ure, Mr. Peres said: "We will do our best to announce a result as soon as possible.

between now and tomorrow (Monday) morning."
Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat already held 10 hours of talks since late Saturday.

In a sign of possible progress, the Palestinian mayor of Hebron, Mustapha Natshe... was brought into the negotia-

U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross telephoned Mr. Arafat and Mr.. Peres late Saturday before they opened their talks, an Israeli delegate said.

that U.S. President Bill Clinton would like to see a deal wrapped up by Sunday late so American officials could go ahead with preparations for the Washington ceremony.

If Israel and the PLO failed;

to reach an agreement, Mr. Clinton would consider himself freed from his offer to host such a ceremony, Mr. Ross said.

The delegate said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin asked Mr. Peres to ease the Jewish state's demands to maintain ultimate security control of Hebron. Any lingering differences over Hebron could be ironed.

(Continued on page 7)

## Japan presses for stronger role in Mideast

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama continued to push Sunday for a more active Japanese role in the Middle East peace process as he tried to improve the once frosty relations with Israel.

"Peace and stability in the region are essential for the prosperity of the entire world," Mr. Murayama said on the first official visit by a Japanese premier to the Jewish state.

"We will therefore con-. tinue our active cooperation in whatever way possible," he added at a reception at the offices of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Rabin replied: "Your

support for the peace process is important to us. We express our deepest thanks to

Mr. Murayama, who arrived here Saturday from

Damascus where he met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, is expected to discuss the peace process and the region's economy in talks Sunday with Mr. Rabin. Japan is now Israel's

second largest export market, with sales worth \$976 million last year, far more than Israel imports from Japan.

Mr. Rabin, who visited Tokyo in December, was also to raise Japan's adherence in an Arab boycott of the Jewish state until after the launch of the Middle East peace process in 1991, officials here

This visit clearly shows Japan's desire to normalise its relations with Israel, which it had maintained at a minimal level for more than years, adhering to the Arab boycott," Israel's ambassador to Tokyo, Amos Ganor said.

Lacking its own natural energy sources, Japan depends greatly on its oil supply from the Gulf Arab states.

"Japan, a great economic power, wants to play a political role in the international arena, notably in the Middle East," Mr. Ganor added. "It realises that Israel is a nation central to the region."

After much debate, Tokyo igreed this year to dispatch 50 of its Self Defence Force personnel to join the U.N. Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights, to replace a Canadian transport unit. They are expected to arrive in February.

"Their dispatch is part of our efforts to participate actively but not directly in the Middle East peace process to help enhance the atmosphere leading towards peace," a Japanese diplomat said.

Israeli-Syrian peace talks are deadlocked over the scope and timetable of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which it seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war.

In Damascus, Mr Murayama urged Mr. Assad to take new steps to accelerate peace talks with Israel. "The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have entered a very important stage and time should not be lost," he told the Syrian president. He also said he would

"urge the Israeli government to solve the issue on the basis of a land-for-peace exchange" based on U.N. Security Council resolutions. a Japanese spokesman said. Mr. Murayama visited the European countries. Yad Vashem memorial and paid tribute to the Jews killed

(Continued on page 7)

## Serb arms removal slow; Muslims seize new town

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb forces have removed some of their siege guns from around Sarajevo under threat of renewed NATO bombing but they were well short of the full withdrawal required as a NATO deadline loomed on Sunday.

U.N. officials monitoring the Sarajevo pullback said 71 Serb guns had left a 20kilometre heavy weapons exclusion zone there but they reckoned the total that must be withdrawn should be between 200 and 329 weapons. U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said NATO had warned the Serbs Saturday night that they were not

pulling out fast enough. "Today, some escalation has, in fact, occurred," Mr. Perry said in nearby Slovenia, a former Yugoslav

republic. Mr. Perry said NATO and U.N. generals were to decide Sunday night whether the Serbs had done enough to permit an extension of the

"I expect, and certainly hope, that they will be able to continue the suspension of the bombing," Mr. Perry told reporters in the resort of Bled during his tour of Central

Bosnian government forces, meanwhile, said they had added another key town Bosnian Serbs get another 72 hours

NATO AND U.N. commanders gave Bosnian Serbs another 72 hours to complete the pullout of their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo after they found that Serbs had shown mitial compliance, the U.N.

"... The Bosnian Serbs have shown initial compliance (with our conditions). Therefore we have agreed that the suspension of airstrikes be extended for an additional 72 hours," U.N. commander General Bernard Janvier said in a

- Sanski Most — to a rapidly growing list of military conquests in a strategic rollback of the Serbs in the northwest of the country.

Shuttle diplomacy aimed at ending the 41-month-old war in Bosnia gathered race as European Union (EU) mediator Carl Bildt arrived in Sarajevo to meet Bosnian government officials and said the Serbs must comply strictly with NATO demands.

U.N. envoy Richard Holbrooke was also bound for Sarajevo after meeting Croatian President Franjo TudjBritish Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind was heading for Belgrade for talks' with Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic

"Sanski Most has been liberated." Bosnian state radio said. Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Bosanski Petrovac and Kljuc all fell in the week before Sanski Most was captured, giving Muslim and Croat forces control over thousands of square kilometres of territory which Serbs had held through the

The Bosnian army also appealed to Serbs in the Mount Ozren area in the northeast to keep calm and to welcome approaching Muslim forces as "liberators from fascism." But the Bosnian Serb army declared that it was holding its line there.

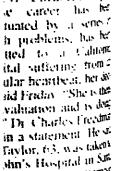
The latest gains put the Muslims on the doorstep of another important town Prijedor, and they now pose a threat to the Serbs' main northern bastion of Banja Luka further to the east.

In Sarajevo, Major Guy Vinet, a U.N. spokesman, said: "At midnight there were about 70 heavy weapons which had been withdrawn from the exclusion zone and we think there were no furth-

(Continued on page 7)







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# Conflict in north Iraq | Aideed forces hampers relief efforts | capture Baidoa

ERBIL (AFP) — Thousands war, Bala area because of of Turkish Kurd refugees are caught in the middle of an The United Nations has inter-Kurd conflict which is hampering the work of U.N. and other aid organisations.

In a sign of increasing desperation, three U.N. officials and 10 workers from non-governmental organisations were held hostage in the U.N.-run Atrush camp in northern Iraq last week.

They were meant to act as shields against the Iraqi Kurds who want to search the. camp, believing it is being used to hide weapons for the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

All the hostages were eventually freed unharmed after negotiations between the head of the U.N. relief coordination unit. Stafford Clarry, and camp leaders.

But the incident served to illustrate the difficulties facing aid workers amid the chaos of northern Iraq, a region controlled by feuding

Iraqi Kurds since 1991.
"Our work is being affected for sure," Mr. Clarry

Four members of an international group who had planned to vaccinate children in Amadia, 100 kilometres northeast of the town of Dohuk, were wounded last week when their vehicle came under PKK fire. And a Swedish group, Qandil, was forced to aban-

don plans to visit the Ber-

restricted movement for humanitarian groups because of the instability, but that has led to serious delays in pro-viding food, Mr. Clarry said. Apart from the 20,000 Tur-

kish Kurds in the two Atrush camps run by the U.N. High missioner for Refugees (UNHCR), aid groups are also trying to help about 20,000 Iraqi Kurds who fied their villages during Turkish army incursions earlier in the

The PKK began to wage war on the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Aug. 25 to punish it for allegedly backing Ankara which twice sent troops into north Iraq to wipe out PKK guerrillas fighting for an independent homeland in Turkey.

But the Turkish campaign appears to have backfired. The area combed by tens of thousands of Turkish troops in the spring is now at least partly under the control of

A senior KDP official, who asked not to be named, said the PKK controlled four strategic positions in the west of the region.

He admitted they were a tough adversary but pre-dicted that having lost the support of the Iraqi Kurd villagers who helped them during the Turkish incursions they could not hold out much

"They are very stupid. Af-ter the Turkish incursion they had lots of people with them. almost all the peasants in the mountainous regions.

"Even we let them move and did not really pursue them. But now they are alone. Without the backing of the villagers, they are like fish out of water. They will surrender soon," he pre-

The KDP said about 80 PKK fighters captured in clashes this mouth were former refugees from Atrush.

"These prisoners told us that 700 people have left the two camps to join PKK groups and that there are still weapons and radio devices

That is why we want to search the camp, but not without arranging it with the UNHCR," a KDP official

The instability is compounded by tensions between the KDP and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which failed at talks in Dublin last week to agree on implementation of a U.S. and Turkish-backed peace accord.

Their conflict has cost more than 2,000 lives since

May 1994. "I'm sure that Turkey will exploit the unrest, if it doesn't stop soon, as a pretext for another incursion," a senior official from a foreign aid organisation said.

## Zeroual urges Algerians to vote, but remains silent on candidacy

PARIS (Agencies) — Algeria's President Liamine Zeroual urged citizens of his troubled country on Saturday to defy guerrillas by voting in the coming presidential elec-tion but did not say whether

he would be a candidate. Mr. Zeroual, in a speech broadcast on state-run radio and television, said the presidential poll due in the next two months would break the deadlock in the bloody conflict pitting his army-backed government against militants bent on toppie the country's moderate rulers and wreck the election.

he himself would contest the election, despite growing speculation in newspapers at home and abroad that Mr. Zeroual, 53, would finally decide to stand.

The daily La Tribune said the main army chiefs had met Mr. Zeroual on Tuesday "and discussed his candida-

cy." Al Watan newspaper said: "President Zeroual might announce his candidacy in the next hours."

Mr. Zeroual, a general who is also defence minister, took office in January 1994 for a maximum three-year transitional term.

He succeeded a civilianappointed military five-man presidency which had taken office after army-backed authorities cancelled general elections in January 1992 which Islamists were poised to win but had failed to end the country's crisis.

In less than four years of escalating violence since, an estimated 40,000 people have been killed.

The pressure on Mr. Zeroual to stand climaxed on Saturday with former government spokeswoman Leila Asslaoui urging him "not to abandon the nation" after hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets across the country deman-

ding his candidacy.
The main secular and Muslim militant parties have dismissed the presidential poll, saying it will worsen the country's conflict by prolonging the army-backed govern-

Guerrillas, who have stepped up attacks since July with bombings that killed more than 40 people, have vowed to block the election.

"The election will ensure that the people will win back the right to select their leadany sharing of power," Mr. Zeroual said.

He acknowledged that the election would be held "in hard times" but pledged that the authorities would strive to provide the best conditions

Referring to guerrillas, he said: "The others who wield a criminal threat (seek) to prevent all the nation from expressing its choice. But this threat will be answered by your firm and dignified reac-

Mr. Zeroual also signed a decree creating an electoral body to oversee the Nov. 16 first round of presidential

balloting. Mr. Zeroual in his speech referred to himself as the "president of the period of transition."

He reminded Algerians that he has invited the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation on Africa Unity to monitor the balloting and ensure "the exclusive right to the Algerian people to choose their lead-

Algerian held in Paris An Algerian suspected of involvement in arms smuggling for the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was questioned and held in custody by French anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere

Saturday, legal sources said. Lawyers said Abdul Kader Belkihel was being held on arms and terrorism-related charges. Arrested in Belgium in June, Belkihel was extradited to France on Wednes-

He is suspected of being a close associate of Ahmad Zaoui, currently on trial in Belgium. Zaoni is thought to be a leading figure in the

GIA. Belkihel is also thought to be part of a European arms trafficking operation. A Belgian-registered car belonging to him was found loaded with arms and ammunition bought in Hungary and Poland.

Six other Algerians have already been questioned over the affair: Jamel Lounaoudi, Samir Salmi, Mohammad Bettayeb, Ahmad Bekkat, Siri Cherefi and Larbi Ait

Meanwhile French Prime Minister Alain Juppe told the newspaper Journal de Dimanche that the inquiry into the recent spate of bombings was "progressing."
"A number of suspects

have been identified and the police are stepping up their inquiries," Mr. Juppe said, in an interview to appear on Sunday.

Commenting on reports of friction between the different arms of the security services. he said: "Cooperation between the services has improved," but deplored "the lack of discretion" in some quarters.

"When inquiries as difficult and as serious as this are underway, people should know how to hold their tongues," he stressed.

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed and 600 militiamen thrust out of Mogadishu and seized the southwestern city of Baidoa on Sunday in their most significant move in two years.

Aid officials said Baidoa fell at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT) and international aid workers were rounded up and taken to a single compound in the city, 240 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu.

It was the most important Somali military development since General Aideed's forces were thrown out of the southern port of Kismayu in 1993 and a blow to aid agencies who kept Baidoa as a showcase for their work in Somalia after U.N. troops

withdrew in March. Gen. Aideed left his south Mogadishu stronghold on Saturday night at the head of 600 militiamen and 30 "technicals." battlewagons mounted with heavy weapons, for the thrust, aid

officials said. The column seized Baidoa. renowned as "the city of death" in 1992 when it was the centre of Somalia's famine, after some sporadic fighting but there were no

precise casualty reports. Aid officials said Mr. Aideed's force in Baidoa on Sunday moved on towards Bardera town, 165 kilometres to the southwest, which could

assault against Kismayu. In Mogadishu, travellers from Baidoa said the takeover was virtually bloodless and Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) militiamen had banned all other gunmen from the city's

Rival clan fighters in the city hid most of their arms. Mohammad Kanyare Afrah, interior minister in a government formed by Gen. Aideed which has no interventional recognition, told reporters "president" Aideed

was received warmly by residents.

He said Gen. Aideed's Baidoa visit was one of several to various regions since July. Gen. Aideed was elected president of Somalia by his supporters in June but rival leaders denounced the

Gen. Aideed's Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic radio said the president told Baidoa elders, religious leaders and intellectuals that the purpose of the visit of his "delegation" was to assess the situation and see how people could be helped.

He said he was particularly concerned with problems brought about during the rule of late dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, who was ousted in 1991, and "those later caused by groups working for colonialists and foreign agen-cies," the radio added.

A radio station run by rival faction leader Osman Ali Hassan Atto said Baidoa residents strongly resisted Gen. Aideed's attack and fighting continued on Sunday after many people were killed and property looted.

A spokesman for the U.N. Development Programme in Nairobi said its 12 or 13 international staff in Baidoa had been taken to a single compound in the city and were being kept there.

"There is some looting of our premises. We were assured in Mogadishu by Aideed's group that nothing would happen to our people or offices but we understand at least one office has been

A spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food programme (WFP) said four WFP workers - an Afghan and three Sudanese - were taken from their compound apparently by SNA militiamen to an unknown location.

She said WFP's radio equipment in Baidoa was rip-

## Filipina maid hopeful despite death sentence

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A young Filipina maid who could face a firing squad in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for murder was in good spirits on Sunday and expressed hope that she would be pardoned, said embassy officials who visited

"Sarah was smiling when I walked in and she said she still had hope that she would be pardoned." Grace Escalante, consul at the Philippine embassy, told Reuters after visiting 16-year-old Sarah Balabagan in prison in the

oasis town of Al 'Ain. On Saturday, she was led sobbing from an Islamic court there which condemned her to death for the premeditated murder of her Gulf Arab employer, Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi

It rejected her plea that she stabbed him 34 times in selfdefence after he raped her. In Manila, two migrant worker organisations urged Filipinos to burn thousands of UAE flags to protest the

death sentence. President Fidel Ramos. whose government came under fire in March when a Filipino maid was hanged for murder in Singapore. ordered officials to finance

a Muslim from the southern

Philippine city of Cotabato. Mr. Ramos said he would appeal directly to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan to intervene in the case.

The case threatened to emerge as a major domestic and foreign policy issue in a country sensitive to the plight of overseas workers and deeply embarrassed over the fact that millions must go abroad to find jobs.

Reports of the death sentence led nearly every newspaper in the country Sunday. In an editorial for publication Monday, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of the country's leading newspapers, said the verdict raises questions of whether there is a system of iustice in the UAE at least as justice is understood in most other countries."

"If this is not the height of barbarism and a clear miscarriage of justice, we don't know what else to call it." the Friends of Filipino Migrant Workers Inc. and the Association of International Domestics for Development said in a statement.

They also urged the Philippine government to declare the southern Gulf emirate a "danger zone" and off-limits the appeal of Ms. Balabagan. to Filipino workers until the maid is set free.

## Kabul parades **Pakistani** 'agents'

KABUL (AP) — Amid growing fears of renewed fighting in the Afghan capit-al, government officials Sunday put on display three Pakistani men accused of spying and working with a warring rival faction.

The parade of spies in Kabul, arranged for a gathering of Western and Afghan journalists, was the latest in President Burhanuddin Rabbani's accusations of Pakistan's alleged support for the rebel Taliban militia.

Mr. Rabbani's forces have suffered a series of devastating defeats at the hands of the Talibans in recent weeks. Earlier this month Mr. Rabbani's western stronghold of Herat fell to the Talibans with barely a fight. Since then, there has been

growing concern among Kabul residents that the Talibans' next target will be the capital.

"There's going to be a bat-tle for Kabul in a week, maybe 10 days," a United Nations official said on condition that he not be named. "And it's going to be a bloody one," he said. "The U.N. can not do anything now. It's up to the Afghans to stop the fighting."

Afghan security officials, meanwhile, told reporters the three Pakistanis - Ashfaq Sadiq from Pakistan's Punjab province, Shakil Ahmad from the Northwest Frontier Province and former police officer, Hamid Ullah from Kabul, as spies.

Along with the alleged Pakistan agents, Afghan authorities showed off Pakistan passports with false Afghan visas of two of the men, a pistol and a full clip of bullets, identification papers and a telephone handset connected to a series of wires.

"The telephone has been used to intercept communications within Kabul," said Mohammad Ali, a senior officer with Afghanistan's secret service known as Khad.

Also on display was a calender and address book containing the names of an arms dealer and the former head of Pakistan's secret service, Hameed Gul.

Afghan forces last week caught two of the men in Khayk in the northern Panjshir Valley while the third man was arrested in the capital outside the Defence Ministry building.
"The evidence speaks for

itself," Mr. Ali said. "Pakistan interferes with Afghanistan's internal affairs through the militia, spying and bombardments. Pakistan has repeatedly de-

nied any involvement in the bitter Afghan civil war, claiming to be an independent observer of the country's ongoing fighting. After nearly six months of relative peace, the prospect

of renewed fighting in Kabul has many residents terrified "People are very worried, again," said shopkeeper Abdul Rahoof. "We have already survived so much, we cannot take anymore fight-

While Mr. Rabbani has been trying to assure both foreign relief workers and Kabul citizens that the city would remain peaceful, his spokesman has warned on several occasions of an imminent attack from Talibans based south and west of the capital.

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Oman asks Mekki to oversee economics ministry

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's Sultan Qaboos on Sunday asked one of his ministers to oversee the affairs of the Finance and Economy Ministry after the death last week in a car accident of Deputy Prime Minister Qais Ben Abdul Monem Al Zawawi. A decree issued by the Sultan said civil service minister Ahmad Ben Abdul Nabi Mekki will with immediate effect overlook "the operations of the ministry of finance and economy." Mr. Mekki is also deputy to the president of the central bank. Zawawi, who was killed on Monday when the car he and the Sultan were in was struck by another vehicle, was deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

#### Yemen expels hundreds of militants

DUBAI (AFP) - Yemen has expelled hundreds of DUBAI (AFP) — Yemen has expelled hundreds of militants after it came under fire from Egypt and other countries for sheltering them, an advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh said. "Hundreds of Arab extremists known as Islamists," including Egyptians, were expelled, General Yahya Al Mutawakkel said in Monday's edition of the United Arab Emirates weekly, Al Shuruk. Many belonged to lihad (holy way) which has militante in Egypt I abase. to Jihad (holy war), which has militants in Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestinian areas, Gen. Mutawakkel said. Some were veterans of the war in Afghanistan. "These militants were not in military camps. Some were living in Yemen as theology students and others as teachers," he said. "They conducted inappropriate activities using this cover."

#### Bomb hits Israeli patrol in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) — A roadside bomb exploded in South Lebanon on Sunday, wounding three Israeli soldiers in a motorised patrol, pro-Israeli sources said. Two soldiers were seriously injured and the third was slightly hurt, the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia sources said. They were evacuated to Israel by helicopter. The attack took place on the road to Quelea village just south of Mariayoun, headquarters of the 3,000-strong SLA which helps the Israelis control a 15-kilometres-wide border occupation zone.

#### Velayati begins Armenia visit

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left here Sunday for Yeravan where he is to take part in a tripartide meeting with Armenia and Turkmenis-tan, the official Islamic republic news agency IRNA said. The three countries are to discuss three-way cooperation in economy, banking, transport and energy, it said. The foreign minister of Iran, Armenia and Turkmenistan signed several accords in Tehran in April for economic and technical cooperation. Their last such meeting was held in Turkmenistan in July.

#### Turkey says 19 Kurdish guerrillas killed

DIYARBAKIR (R) - Troops killed 19 Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) rebels in series of clashes in southeast Turkey, security officials said on Sunday. There was no independent confirmation of the killings. The officials said five of the guerrillas died in fighting in the district of Kulp, where Turkish forces striking from land and air killed 51 rebels last week in one of the southeast's biggest clashes this year. Twelve other rebels were killed on Mount Cudi. a PKK stronghold near the Iraqi border, the regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir said in a statement.

#### King Hassan II rejects idea of 'Islamic terrorism'

PARIS (AFP) - King Hassan II of Morocco rejected the idea of "Islamic terrorism" in a forthright denunciation of the current wave of attacks in France in an interview Sunday. Speaking to the French-language television channel TV5, he also announced a forthcoming visit to France to meet French President Jacques Chirac. Of the bombings in France, he said: "The attacks are political attacks. They are not religious .... and we will know one day that those responsible for the attacks, even if they say they are Muslim, know nothing of their religion." He said relations between Morocco and France were better than before. He would be travelling to Paris in a few weeks to meet Mr. Chirac, he said, without specifying the date.

#### Iran: U.S. trying to partition Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri on Sunday accused the United States of seeking to dismember Iraq, the official news gency IRNA reported. Mr. Nateq Nuri, in a meeting with a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, reaffirmed Iran's support for Iraq's "independence and territorial integrity and a government there based on the will of its people." Tehran is alarmed over Washington's efforts to mediate a peace accord between rival Kurdish factions in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, according to diplomats here. Their peace talks in Dublin broke down on Saturday. The head of the Kuwaiti delegation, deputy Ghanam Ali Al Jombur, said his country also respected Iraq's territorial integrity and called for cooperation with Iran to ensure peace and stability in the region.

#### Aideed 'investigating' jailed journalist

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia's self-styled president, warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, told local officials at the weekend that the case of a journalist now under arrest was being investigated. He said journalist Ali Musa Abdi, who worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation and French news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP), would be released if he was found innocent of the charges for which he was arrested, a spokesman said on Sunday. No details have been given of the charges. Mr. Ali, abducted by pro-Aideed gunmen on Sept. 5, is being held under guard in south Mogadishu. His wife, who has been able to visit him daily said he was well but "weary."

#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

14:00 .. Animals of Farthing Wood

	14:30 Hey Day
- 1	15:00 Survival
4	16:00 Families
	17:00
	Children's programme - Les
ı	Mondes Engloutes
	17:30
	Telefilm — A Dieu Les Rosis
	19:00 News in French
	19:15 French Varieties
	19:30 News Headlines
	19:35 Drama — Camp Wilder
_	20:00 McHale's Navy
- 1	
	20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful.
	21:10 Harts of the West
	22:00 News in English
	22:25
	The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries
	23:25 Film: "The Dream Team"

PI	LAYER TUN	IES
14:58		F
(M: In		rrise) Du
6:00		
'y 23		Mach
•	-	. 1

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

#### St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annuaciation Te De la Saile Church Tel. 061757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 02366 Church of the Annuaciation Tel: 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 63(85). Tel.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. pian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

#### WEATHER

Church of Nazarene Tel.675691. The Evangelical Local Church is

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Mild weather conditions will precall with winds northwesterly mod-erate to active. In Aquba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas

Min./Max. temp. . 17:27

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ZAROA:

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent. USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

# **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mukhles Halaseh 819	220
Dr. Ghalch Zawaidch 736	40] I
Dr. Nidal As ad 751	672
	517
First pharmacy	912
Ferdows pharmacy 778	336
Al Asema phurmacy 637	055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623	
Al Salam pharmacy 636	
Yacouh pharmacy	945
Shmeisani phurmaes	
Naiovuib pharmacy	672
Naiphujh pharmacy	632
IRSID:	
Dr. Ahmad Quau	·1
Alunch observers	

#### EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre ....... 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate

Civil Deletice Stiletkelies 144
Rescue Poolice
192. 621111. 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Ulahama Ballan (12)
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321.
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complete 197 1/2
Complaints 897-467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
(directory assistance)
Overseas Calls
Control America Telephone
Central Ammun Telephone
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authorite freeze
Water Authority
Jordan Electricity Authority
Electric Power 815615
Company 6% bd
RJ Flight Information (R-532m)
Output Alia Int. Alia and an experience
Oucen Alia Intl. Airport (#-5320)

#### HOSPITALS -AMMAN Hussem Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Materniti, J. Amn 644281 6

Akileh Maternity J. Amn 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362 Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140 Palestine, Shmeisoni ... 664171/4 Shmeisoni Hospital ... 669131 University Hospital ... 845845 Al-Muscher Hospital ... 845845 Amal Respital ...... 674155 The Arab Center for Heart and Zarga Govt. Hospital ((19)9x3323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)000560 Ibu Sina Hospital ...... (09)986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990000 

FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Princes Haya Hospital ...... (03)314111

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (IN1532III). 5. where it should always be veri-

#### ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:29 Sanaa (RJ)
69:00 Damascus (RJ)
69:30Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
10:10 Duhai, Abu Dhahi (RJ)
10:15 Agaba (RJ)
10:35 Beirut (RJ)
16:30 Zagreh (add) (RJ)
17:15 Caim (RJ)
17:20 Casablanca (add) (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:10 Tunis (RJ)
00:30
Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi (RJ)
Dall: (1)
(א) נוווטכנ

Other Flights (Terminal 2).

10:50 ..... Khartoum (SD) .. Doha (O7) 13:40 .... Muscat. Abu Dhabi (GF .... Kiev (6U) ...... Park, Damascus (AF) 21:09 ..... 21:18 .....

.....London (BA) 01:25 ...... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

DEPARTURES

(Terminal 1)

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

97:00 ..... Zagreh (add) (RJ

21:45 Damascus (RJ) 21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:15 ...... Duhai, Muscal (RJ) 22:30 .... 'Al Ain, Ahu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 ..... London (KJ)

07:30 ...... Rome (AZ) 08:45 ..... Beirut (ME) 12:09 ..... Khartoum (SD)

> Amman Silit every Monday 5:00 p.m. every Monday

MARKET PR	RICES
Upper/lower price in f	ils per kg.
Apple	6007-900
Banana	630
Banana (Mukammar)	A30
Cahhage	130 / 80
Carrot Cauliflower	420/300 190/120
Chryster than 1	ייבניטפן יוא / 1 <u>20</u>
Cucumbers (large) Cucumbers (small)	[20 / 167
Eggplant	107 (20)
Figs	<u></u>
Figs Gartic	7. PHOSPIL
Grapes	75(1/60)
Guava	69VSW
Lemon	300/220
Marrow (large)	······································
Marrow (small)	390 / 300
Mulukhia	130 / 81)
Okra	850 / 700
Onion (dry)	240 INU
Orange	40,410
Peaches	I(XXI/XX)
Pupper (hor)	180 / 130
Pepper (sweet)	770 / 150
romegranate	7.34ソフジリ
romic	ואו אודי
Mana Beans	เมาะเศล
Sweet Melon	7A/1 / 7A/1
Tomato	110/70

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

5:00 p.m. every Sunday

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - An explosion

ripped through dozens of

containers causing fire to

engulf a section of the port

of Agaba on Saturday,

according to Civil Defence

Department (CDD) officials.

A CDD official told the

Jordan Times Sunday that

the blaze, which started Sat-

urday at about noon, was the

result of high temperatures

which caused the combus-

tion of the hazardous chemi-

cals inside some of the con-

The official added that

used in the manufacturing of

tainers.

explode, spread blaze in Aqaba

explosives — were improp-

erly packed in the contain-

He said the containers

were exposed to tempera-

tures as high as 40°C, caus-

The resultant fire spread

He added that it took CDD

units less than one hour to

extinguish the blaze and iso-

late other containers on the

CDD units were kept on

The official could not give

an estimate of the amount of

damage caused by the fire, but said at least 20 contain-

ers full of various goods and

commodities were totally

No one was injured in the

Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi meets with a visiting Cuban parliamentary dele-

Visiting Cuban parliamentarians suggest

forming parliamentary friendship group

The head of the Cuban del-

egation said the delegation,

which arrived here Saturday

from Syria, wanted to

explore means of encourag-

ing ties between the two

He said Cuba has always

supported Arab countries in

Mr. Srour underlined the

strong ties between Cuba

and Jordan and briefed the

delegation on Jordan's par-

liamentary life, political plu-

ralism and its democratic

Innovative chair helps children

their just struggles.

countries.

the Middle East region.

gation to discuss enhancing bilateral relations (Petra photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — A visit-

ing Cuban parliamentary

delegation Sunday discussed

the establishment of a Jor-

danian-Cuban parliamentary

friendship group to take

charge of stimulating bilat-

eral cooperation in parlia-

The Cuban delegation met

with Lower House of Parlia-

ment Speaker Sa'ad Hayel

Srour and Deputy Abdullah

Ensour, chairman of the

House's Foreign Affairs

Committee, to discuss coop-

eration and developments in

By Lola Keilani

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Centre for

Social Development in the

Hai Nazzal district held a

course on how to design

and manufacture a special

compressed cardboard chair

for children with cerebral

palsy which would cost

about \$3970 less than a

mentary and other fields.

full alert for 16 hours, the

CDD official added.

destroyed.

incident.

quickly to the other contain-

ers on that pier, he said.

ing a container to explode.

# BRIEF Hazardous chemicals containers

economics ministr Oalons on Sinday asked the attains of the Finance death last week in a court of the Kinday asked that the Cana Ben Alam and the Nath Mekki will see the Kinday at the minimal at the minimal asked to the Alam at the minimal at the minimal at the minimal asked to the minimal at twiner who depute to a Sultan were in was sind some industry for finance

is of militants expelled hundreds a c expenses minores a c from Egypt and ohe c advisor to president a of Arab extremista know a conselled Grane

Monday editing of b Honorak Many belong hants in Egypt, Leband are at kel and Some to preliminary investigations indicated that the chemicals, in. These militants at terce in the color, is also known as guncotton, is also known as guncotton.

I in S. Lebanon

dende bomb exploded ading three israeli solin sources and, Two soller first was slightly hun b iv (SLA) inditia soun israel by helicopter h Juclea village Just south 3.488) strong SLA we 5-kilometres-wide box

la visit

reign Minister Ali Allnavan where he is to it Armema and Turkner news agency IRNAR , three way corperation: and energy it said h and luckmentanse April for economic such meeting was helf-

guerrillas killei

aliced 19 Kurdistan Labo ashes in southeast line There was member The officials and to the district of Kulture d and an killed 🤄 🧝 a higgerst clashes me on Mount tale 50 1. the regional goars said in a state of

of 'Islamic terrorsm'

terthright demonstrate. France in an atoms language territorias withcoming year to Fait. S Charles of the bombin are political attack like know one day that the sen if they are the 2. cheron This collabor ere better than been? a few wareks to med ! vanir the date

ition Iraq

ament Speaker Ali Ali. al the Found state official news generally a meeting with a king truncid from s. support i tial integrity and agent of its people. Telia icuts to meetale and factions in Kardshir domats have their pa-Saturday The headarn saam Air At Combus C. 's territorial integrit 2 an to custic peace?

jailed journalist

into act union preside red told local attents contralist now under an pominalist. Vir Vinsa 48. all assume Comparations mer Presse ( VP) as special of the charges? sanan said on Sunday hares. Mi Vii. (Nich at S. Is being held in arte, who has been able H but "woney

MARKET PRICES

portion construct Mass and

misthers.

and other contrast

Comment of the

Supersulas Supersulas Supersulas

 $e^{iptort}$ 

ache.

and a

prince:

similar metal model manufactured in the U.S. These chairs help children with cerebral palsy to stand as well as sit securely and comfortably without the all Brancascus sm<sub>e</sub> need for restraining straps, said volunteer course teacher and physiotherapist Archie Hinchcliffe, who

lesigned the chair. Ne'meh Mustafa Abdul Halim, mother of five, two of who have cerebral palsy, said that although she still found the chair expensive at

with cerebral palsy JD 20 each, she was happy that Ayman, her 11-year-old son, could now watch television comfortably with the rest of his family. Ayman's younger sister Ala'a has

> own chair soon. Before getting his cardboard chir, Ayman had to be tied to a regular chair to remain propped up, the mother said.

> been fitted to receive her

Unfortunately, said Mrs. Hinchcliffe, who is married to British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe, only two out of the seven women trainees in the course were willing to stay on and work on what the centre hoped would be a useful income-generating

The others could not spare the time, according to the two women who did stay

"It is difficult for them to stay away from home from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily," said Hiba Musallem, a 21-year-old with a diploma in computer science.

Dr. Ensour reviewed the

Jordan-Israel peace treaty

with the Cuban delegation.

The meeting was also

attended by several Jordan-

ian parliamentarians as well

as Cuban Ambassador to

The Cuban delegation ear-

lier met with Speaker of the

Senate Ahmad Lawzi and

discussed parliamentary

affairs and means of promot-

ing bilateral relations.

Jordan Ernesto Gomez.

In addition, Mrs. Hinchcliffe said, some of young women were reluctant to continue working because it involved their co-signing a bank loan to finance the

"The idea of getting a group loan frightened the women," she said.

The production of each chair takes one week, and so far eight chairs, have been ordered for construc-"We put a great deal of

work into our chair designs, but the smile that lights up Ayman's face gave us so much pleasure that we forgot all our weariness," said Ms. Musallem.

# American firm to study feasibility of Aqaba airport expansion

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

According to the official,

if safety procedures were implemented properly, the

explosion and blaze could

"No one informed the

CDD that hazardous materi-

als were being stored at the

According to the official,

containers were not carrying

warning labels and were not

authorities to coordinate

amongst all concerned to

inform us about hazardous

material being shipped to

and stored in the ports so we

can take necessary safety

measures," the official said.

An investigative commit-

tee has been formed to con-

duct inquiries into the inci-

'We have contacted Agaba

stored in a suitable area.

have been avoided.

port," the official said.

AMMAN - The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has selected an American company to conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Agaba airport and the awarding of the contract is expected to be announced this week after the Council of Ministers approve the

CAA selection. Director-General CAA Ahmad Jweiber declined to give the name of the company, which will conduct the study under a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA).

The grant was announced at a conference organised by the TDA, which is directly answerable to the White House, on development of the Jordan Rift Valley in Amman early this year. It is a condition of the

grant that the study be awarded to an American company. More than a dozen firms from the U.S. had submitted

offers to conduct the study.

Some of the offers came from companies which already engaged in what industry experts describe as totally innovative projects in some third world countries airports built, owned and operated strictly by the private sector under concessions granted by the govern-

· No clear idea has crystallised yet on the administrative shape and nature of an expanded Aqaba airport.

"We hope to announce the awarding of the contract after the government approves our recommendation," Mr. Jweiber told the Jordan Times.

The study is expected to take 22 "man-months" -roughly six months - and will cover all aspects of expanding the Aqaba airport and operations to serve as an international airport for travellers to Jordan and Israel.

Under an agreement in principle reached by Jordan and Israel, the airport will be expanded towards the Israeli border and will have two separate terminals to serve



Ahmad Jweiber

the two countries. Unofficial estimates put the cost of expansion at \$200 million, and the government is expected to focus on the private sector for financing the project.

The CAA has said that no decision has been taken yet on the actual development of

the airport, and added that it is in the "first stage of the process — the development and idea phase."

"The idea is to develop a regional airport that will support other developmental sectors such as trade, industry, tourism etc. and that will achieve economies of scale, resulting in overall savings to the country and a better utilisation resources," said Mr. Jweiber in a statement to the Jordan

According to Mr. Jweiber. the second stage will be "the undertaking of the feasibility study through rigorous multi-scenario, cost-benefit analyses, and finally the last stage is the decision-making stage in which the decision to embark the project is

Mr. Jweiber stressed that "the government is serious about involving the private sector in this project and would not like to subject the budget to further pressure."

"If the project is feasible, then the private sector will want to pursue it, and if the project is not feasible then no one from the private sector will pursue it and the project will not materialise," he said.

The project is expected to be part of an agreement between Jordan and Israel on cooperation in the transport sector - one of the more than 20 accords that the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty calls for.

According to the Israeli Ministry of Transport, Jordan and Israel disagreed on the proposed airport expansion but a breakthrough was achieved when His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met in the Jordan Valley on Aug. 28, and the Crown Prince accepted a suggestion by Mr. Peres "to build an airport terminal - half of which will be Jordanian and (the other) half Israeli -- on the border."

The agreement on transport — which included a separate section on civil aviation - is in its final form and is expected to be formal-

# Japan to finance \$1.2 m worth of projects in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan and Jordan on Sunday exchanged documents under which Tokyo will provide 1.12 billion yen (\$1.12 million) to finance three projects, raising to \$52 million Japanese grant aid to Jordan since

Included in the three new projects is a 547 million yen (\$5.6 million) facility to be located at Aqaba to fight possible oil spills in the Red

It is; part of an agreement reachéd among Jordan, Israel and Egypt in talks on regional cooperation in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. The multilateral phase tackles the issues of water,

regional economic cooperation and the environment. Japan chairs the working group on the environment.

refugees, arms control,

The other two grants covered under the documents exchanged on Sunday by Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura are: 550 million yen (\$5.7 million) to help Jordan purchase agriculture machinery and vehicles to increase production, and 24 million yen (about \$250,000) to help Jordan Television produce educational and cultural pro-

The formalisation of t' grant aid comes one day ahead of a .i her by Japanese ... Minister. Tomichi Murayama, who is on a tour of the Middle East. It was not immediately known whether Mr. Murayama might announce fresh aid to Jordan, but diplomatic sources said it was likely.

grammes.

Jordan qualified for an outright Japanese grant aid in 1993 when the per capita income in the Kingdom plunged to less than \$1,200 — a floor set by the Tokyo government.

Since then, Tokyo offered \$40 million in aid to the Kingdom until the end of 1994, and the grant announced Sunday is part of assistance for fiscal 1995.

Jordan and Japan are discussing projects worth tens of million of dollars, and officials in Tokyo say they expect agreements to be reached become the end of the veai on most of the proposhe projects include a

complete bridge and crossing point over the Jordan River between the West Bank and Jordan, as well as access roads to border points between the Kingdom and

Japan is Jordan's largest creditor, holding about \$1.8 billion of the Kingdom's foreign debts of \$5.6 billion.

to alleviate the rising burden

In May, Tokyo agreed to adjust interest on the loans

of the loans given in Japanese yen as the Japanese currency gained strength against the dollar. Japanese foreign policy

does not allow for cancellation of foreign dues and continued development loans. As such, Tokyo has promised to make more funds available to Jordan at

concessionary terms to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and build foreign currency reserves. Japanese officials also indicated recently that the Tokyo government was considering "some kind of a for-

mula under which Jordan's

debt burden could be further

reduced." The formula could be on a hilateral level as well as on a multilateral level with the Paris Club of creditor gov-

ernments, they said. In a statement on Sunday, the Japanese embassy said the grant aid to Jordan came "in recognition of the great demand for the enhancement of the welfare of the people of Jordan and in view of the friendly relations between Jordan and Japan."

It said the 500 million yen grant to the agricultural sector would help Jordan's efforts to become "more self-reliant in basic foods, such as potatoes, wheat etc." It noted that the grant for

the marine pollution centre at Agaba is part of the "Upper Gulf of Aqaba Oil Spill Contingency Project" formulated by the multilateral working group on the environment

The statement said the grant for Jordan Radio and Television Coporation will "promote education in Jordan through the donation of cultural and educational television programmes," and noted that Japanese aid to Jordan as "cultural grants" now totalled 430 million yen

(\$4.4 million).

# Opposition parties condemn Libya's expulsion of Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) - Jordanian opposition political parties Sunday condemned Libva's expulsion of Palestinians from its territory and demanded that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi reconsider his decision and rescind the expulsion order. In a statement circulated to

the press the political parties said Libyan authorities have expelled tens of thousands of Palestinians and other Arab nationals who have been working and living in Libya for many years. This arbitrary measure, the

statement said, specifically harms the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya because no other Arab state is willing to accept them. Many of the expellees

have been stranded in the desert at the Libyan-Egyptian border for more than two weeks as the Egyptian and Lebanese governments refused to accept them even though they hold travel documents issued in Egypt and Lebanon, the statement said. It also said that Israel, for its part, is closing the door

on the expellees entry because the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians does not provide the right of return to the Palestinians.

The statement said that the expulsion of the Palestinians is taking place at a time when the Arab World is exposed to Zionist-imperialist aggression, adding that Libya and Iraq face sanctions and Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese lands are under occupation.

Stressing that the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya would increase the Palestinian people's sufferings, the statement said that the move would cause further regional problems not only for the Palestinians but. also for the Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees, and such developments would never help end the sanctions imposed on Libya.

The statement demanded that Libya rescind the expulsion order because it is a violation of human rights and harms inter Arab rela-

It said that the Arabs are

now in dire need for unity of ranks "to confront the enemy, conspiracies and aggression" and to deal with

their common problems. The political parties' statement came four days after the Lower House of Parliament issued a condemnation of the Libyan measure urging Arab countries to help stop the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya..

The parliament statement described as irresponsible the expulsion order, stressing that the move would remain a black mark in the Libyan leadership's history.

The following political parties signed Sunday's Islamic statement: the Action Front, the National Action Front, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Progressive Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Socialist Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Democratic Peoples Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Unity Party and the Jordanian Unionist Democ-

# Deputy calls subpoena 'unjust'

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant Sunday criticised a recent court order summoning the deputy to appear in court on charges of disrupting the peace and resisting arrest on Oct. 28

following a Friday prayer. Sheikh Abu Zant, who returned to Jordan last week after attending an Islamic conference in Baghdad, told the Jordan Times that he was informed of the court order by his colleagues at the conference. He said the subpoena was unjust.

"I was frankly surprised to learn that my name was among the 25 suspects in a court list," the Amman 2nd District deputy said.

Judicial sources Sunday confirmed that Sheikh Abu Zant's name was among the 25 suspects charged with the Oct. 1994 mosque clashes in the Hai Nazzal district of east Amman.

Sheikh Abu Zant said that until Sunday he had received no official court order nor a request to lift his immunity.

Immunity is only applicable while Parliament is in session, therefore it will be lifted on Sept. 20 when the extraordinary session, now in process, concludes. On Oct. 28, Sheikh Abu

Zant, an outspoken opponent of the peace treaty with Israel, was slightly injured in clashes after prayers at Abu Hureirah Mosque in According to the deputy,

he was assaulted after prayers outside the mosque. At first, Sheik Abu Zant said, he was considered a witness to the brawl, "but four months later I learned

that I became a suspect," he

added. "Police first apprehended 24 people accusing them of beating me up," the deputy

"But a few weeks later, the 24 men and I were charged with attacking and resisting arrest," he added.

Deputy Abu Zant was taken to King Hussein Medical Centre suffering minor injuries after delivering a sermon against the peace treaty, Islamic Action Front (IAF) sources claimed at the time.

Government spokespersons then said the deputy was hurt in clashes inside the mosque during Friday prayers.

Last week, the IAF criticised the south Amman court order summoning Sheikh Abu Zant to appear in court, because, the IAF said, he is a deputy and thus is entitled to immunity.

IAF members charged that Deputy Abu Zant's name was mentioned as a suspect last week at the court hearing of the suspects in Abu Hureirah Mosque incident.

Deputy Abu Zant was involved in several rows in Parliament, including a Jan. 25 dispute with the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi, in which the deputy demanded that the minister provide the House with a full list of names of mosque preachers, dates of their appointments and the names of

all retired preachers. Sheikh Abu Zant accused Dr. Abbadi of using improper terms, ignorance of basic Arabic and lacking knowledge of his ministry's internal status.

Speaker of the Lower House Sa'ad Hayel Srour recently announced during a regular session of Parliament that the House had not received any requests to lift Deputy Abu Zant's immunity.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**FILMS** 

"Tombes du Ciel," at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. "Ghost House," taken from a novel by Isabella Allendy at the Phoenix Gallery for Cultura and Art at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"Entering the World of the Novel," by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS** 

\* "Beneath the Waves," photographs on Aqaba underwater life by Julia Reinholt at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

\* Works by artist Ghazi 'Ayasrah at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

\* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

DARAT AL FUNUN

ratic Party.

\* Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery. \* Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House. \* Painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House. \* 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Bacha and Joranian artist Ali Bermamet \* Open Air Sculpture workshop.\* Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

Town offers baby

bonus to combat population dècline

NIZHNY NOVGOROD

Russia (AP) — Concerned

about a population decline,

the region surrounding Rus-

sia's fourth-largest city has

begun offering cash rewards

to women who give birth

The modest payments aren't

likely to make female resi-

dents of Nizhny Novgorod

want to rush out and get

pregnant, however. Under a

newly issued regional decree, reported by ITAR-

TASS, mothers will be paid

1' million rubles (\$225) for

their first child and 1.3 mil-

lion rubles (\$292) for their

men better lovers

Fantasies

# Powell fuels talk of 3rd U.S. party

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Popular ex-military chief Colin Powell may be unsure about his presidential ambitions, but he speaks for millions of Americans when be says the time may be right for a third political party.

More and more voters are " prepared to jettison the timehonoured two-party political in system next year to cast their ballots for a candidate that is ; neither Democrat nor Republican, according to ; recent polls.

And it is Gen. Powell more than any other potential candidate who has captivated the public. As he released his memoirs Saturday, and a embarked on a publicity i blitz that is intense even by U.S. standards, Gen. Pow-.. ell's popularity has surged to , new heights.

magazine/CNN poll found that 53 per cent of all Americans want to see Gen. Powell run for president, and 45 per cent want to see him run as an independent.

The poll also showed Gen. · Powell would handily defeat : President Bill Clinton if the former military chief ran as the Republican nominee, and would even come out on top should he run as an independent against Mr. Clinton and Republican frontrunner

Bob Dole, a veteran senator. Though Gen. Powell told CBS-TV that the best road to the White House may be on the Republican ticket, his moderate views lead many analysts to believe that Gen. Powell would have a tough time winning the nomination since conservatives play a key role in the Republican nominating process.

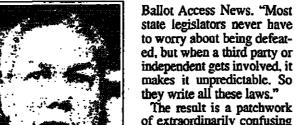
Gen. Powell, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff who successfully led the US forces in the 1991 gulf war, himself has acknowledged feeling uneasy with either party.

"Neither of the two major parties ... fits me comfortably in its present state," he wrote in his new autobiography. My American Journey. The time may be at hand for a third major party to emerge to represent this sensible centre of the American political spectrum."

Couched in those terms, a majority of Americans would agree with Gen. Powell, according to Karlan Bowman, a polling expert at the American Enterprise

The number of people who want to see a third party is certainly growing," said Bowman, adding that Gen. Powell has "by far the best positive-negative ratio in politics today."

Though leading a third party or independent movement has obvious advantages in terms of voter appeal, it is a daunting task



The result is a patchwork of extraordinarily confusing and time-consuming procedures through which third-party or independent candidates must navigate in order to get on the ballot from state to state.

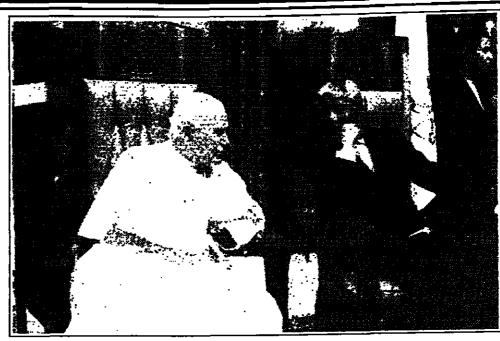
In Tennessee, for example. an independent candidate needs only 25 signatures from voters in the entire state to get on the ballot. In Maryland, it takes a petition with 75,000 voters' names.

Making it even more con-

fusing are differing rules for independent candidates, or genuine third-party politi-cians. Mr. Perot, for instance, ran not as a thirdparty candidate, but as an independent, though some have encouraged him to convert his United We Stand organisation into a bonafide

political party. Running under that label would help him get on the ballot in some states, but hurt him in others.

"See how silly these laws are?" said Mr. Winger, who is a consultant to people who attempt to break past the two-party structure. "each state is like its own little



Pope John Paul II and South African President Nelson Mandela talk at the presidential guest house in Pretoria (AFP photo)

## Pope praises changes in S. Africa

GERMISTON, South Africa (AFP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday praised the advent of democracy in South Africa, saying it gives hope for the resolution of violent conflicts in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world.

Addressing what organisers claimed were 250,000 pilgrims — but looked less than 100,000 — at the Gosforth Park racetrack in this city east of Johannesburg, the Pontiff said the end of apartheid bad been a matter for rejoicing throughout the

"Seeing what is happening here, men and women of good will hope that in other parts of the continent too, and throughout the world, violence will give way to dialogue and agreement, and the lives of innocent men, women and children will no longer be in danger," the Pope said in a sermon delivered at an open air mass at the racetrack.

He said that a "new dawn of hope has risen" in Africa. "Much blood has been spilt on the soil of Africa," the Pope said. "The people of Africa have been painfully divided."

He invited Catholics to work for peace as he called for an end to conflict in Africa and in the Balkans. Peace is lacking in Eastern Europe, and in Sudan, Alge-

ria, Rwanda, Burundi and, intil recently, in South because Africa. apartheid," he said.

The challenge facing the people of the continent. Pope John Paul II said, "is a

conversion to solidarity. marked by magnanamity. forgiveness and reconcilia-

"This is the only path out of the moral bankruptcy of racial prejudice and ethnic batred," he said.

"The changed world situation has had a profound effect on Africa," the Pontiff added. "The time of ideological contrasts is over; the real problems of the peoples of Africa have to be tackled, all available with

He also praised the "irreplaceable" role played by women in Africa "in humanising society" and urged them to be "teachers of peace" and to "serve peace by teaching respect and love for every human being."

The Pontiff arrived at the racetrack at the head of a cavalcade of 12 cars and then made his way through the vast crowd aboard his "Popemobile," waving and offering blessings as he snaked his way around the huge field.

Already waiting in the VIP area were President Nelson Mandela — a Methodist who had arrived earlier by helicopter, Deputy Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Frederik De Klerk, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, and other senior politicians, as well as bishops and cardinals from throughout southern Africa.

the assembly in Zulu, Southern Sotho, English and Afrikaans and was in turn greeted by Sotho praisesinger Anthony Khoali, clad

in animal skins and beads, and by a group of Sotho traditional dancers.

The two-hour mass was then celebrated in English. Southern Sotho, Xhosa, Northern Sotho, Zulu, Pedi, Portuguese, Swazi and Afrikaans.

At the conclusion of the service, the Pope banded over his "apostolic exhortation," offering instruction based on the African Church Synod he chaired in Rome in 1994, to 12 representatives of the local church.

Pilgrims had travelled by coach from around the country and neighbouring states throughout the weekend, many arriving here in the early hours of Sunday morn-

The Pope had always refused to visit South Africa during the white-minority apartheid regime, being forced in 1988 to travel through the country to Lesotho when bad weather forced his plane to land in Johannesburg.

In welcoming the 75-yearold Pope at the start of his three-day visit Saturday, Mr. Mandela said many South Africans had long yearned for a papal visit.

"To say the visit is long overdue is to pay tribute to your own abhorrence of the system of apartheid," Mr. Mandela said.

On Monday the Pope flies to Nairobi for the last leg of his three-nation African tour which began in the west African state of Cameroon

## survey

LONDON (R) - British men have sex seven times a day - in their minds - and they should keep dreaming as it improves their love life A survey by men's health magazine calculated that men fantasise 2,555 times a year about having intercourse. "Sexual fantasy improves the quality of your actual sex life," the magazine survey said. "Research shows sexual fantasies occur most often in men who enjoy the greatest sexual satisfaction. So dream on The male mind is simply not monogamous, but men shouldn't feel guilty," it

## French losing taste for baguettes

PARIS (R) — The French Millers Association said breadmaking was endangered by the public's loss of appetite for traditional breads like the celebrated baguette. The association said French people each ate nearly a kilo (2.2 lb) of bread each day at the start of the century, only half a kilo (about a pound) daily in ? 1945 and now ate only a third of that quantity daily. The main culprits, it said, were the introduction into French diets of new breakfast foods such as cereals as well as claims by nutritionists in the 1970s and 1980s that bread was fattening.

#### Reeve making says

NEW YORK (R) - Actor Christopher Reeve, paralysed since a riding accident in May, is making progress and is able to say "three or four" words at a time, his brother said in a television interview. Reeve, 42, can get around in an electric wheelchair he controls by blowing through a tube, said his brother. Benjamin Reeve, on American Journal, shown recently. The star of the Superman movies was injured in a horseback riding accident over the Memorial Day weekend in Virginia. The New York native has since been moved to a rehabilitation facilty in West Orange, New Jersey.

#### French filmmaker honoured

FRANKFURT (AP) Jean-Luc Godard,

Freuch avant-garde filmmaker, is to be awarded the Adorno Prize for a lifetime of artistic achievement, city officials said. Mayor Claudia Roth will present the 50,000 Mark (\$35,000) prize Sunday to Godard, 64year-old director of Breathless, My Life To Live, Every Man For Himself and 30 other films and video projects. Godard is "one of the great aesthetic avantgardists of the 20th century," said the award announcement from the city of Frankfurt. "His bravery and readiness to experiment, bringing him into constantly changing artistic terrain, has given film undreamed-of potential for expression and life." Frankfurt has awarded the Adomo Prize every three years since 1977 to reknowned artists and philosophers. Past winners include philosopher Juergen Habermas and con ductor and composer Pierre Boulez. The prize was created in honour of Theodor W. Adorno, the German sociol; ogist who emigrated to the United States during the Nazi regime and returned after the war to Frankfurt.

## 2 drown, thousands flee as mudflows sweep northern Philippine towns

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AP) — A judge and a 13-year old boy drowned in a fresh series of floods sweeping already devastated towns west of Pinatubo volcano, authorities said Sun-

 Police said volcanic debris set loose by incessant rains from the slopes of Pinatubo over the weekend also sent thousands more residents in several towns fleeing to evacuation camps.

Regional Police Director Diony Ventura said Judge Antonio David of the Angeles City Court died late Sat-

urday in a strong river current in Porac town of Pampanga, 67 kilometres north

The boy, Eddie Wardo, drowned early Sunday in Santo Domingo village of nearby Minalin town.

Judge David and 12 others, including his wife and seven policemen, were trying to cross a temporary bridge along the Mancatian River when the river bank they were standing on caved in, said Mr. Ventura.

Rescuers managed pluck out everyone and take them to safety, except the judge, whose body was later found Sunday morning 14 kilometres downstream in Bacolor town, he said.

Gen. Colin Powell

to leap over the obstacles

that have been placed in the

paths of political renegades.

In 1992, Texas billionaire Ross Perot mounted one of

the most successful indepen-

dent campaigns in decades.

He got just under 20 per cent

of the vote, the most for a

candidate running outside

the two-party structure since

former President Theodore

Roosevelt ran as a "progres-

The most difficult chore he

faced was merely getting on the ballot in all 50 U.S.

states. Simply put, it is much

easier if you are a Democrat

or a Republican to get your name before voters in each

"It's just (Democrats and

Republicans) trying to elim-

inate the competition," said

Richard Winger, editor of

sive" in 1912.

U.S. state.

Disaster officials said about half a million residents have been dislodged from 18 Pampanga towns since the mudflows began in July.

Loosened volcanic debris, known as lahar, has destroyed hundreds of vil-lages and thousands, of hectares (acres) of farmland in Pampanga, Zambales and Tarlac since Pinatubo erupted in June 1991.

## U.N. General Assembly has Bosnia, nuclear issues, Pope on agenda

UNITED NATIONS (AFP)

— The U.N. General Assembly opens here Tuesday with a full agenda involving peace measures for Bosnia, nuclear testing, the 50th anniversary of the organisation's founding, and

a visit by the Pope. A summit on Oct. 22-24 will bring 150 heads of government to the U.N. Headquarters in New York, where as every year, General Assembly debate will cover practically all international subjects — 164 are on the agenda. Debate will last

until December. Pope John Paul II is scheduled to address the Assem-.bly on Oct. 5 during a visit to New York.

Starting Sept. 25, several dozen foreign ministers will participate in a general debate that will include the world's ongoing conflicts, human rights issues, development, disarmament and nuclear testing.

France, as well as China, are awaiting resolutions condemning their recent nuclear tests. A number of

8

governments, including Australia, Japan and Chile, have spoken of their support for a resolution condemning the testing, and numerous other opponents of nuclear weapons will use the occa-

Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister Diogo Freitas Do Amaral will preside. The end of the status quo

sion as a sounding board.

in the former Yugoslavia, with the weakening of the Bosnian Serbs and growing chances for peace, will be a main topic of discussion.

Russia has used the recent North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air strikes on Bosnian Serbs to lament that the United Nations has lost control over the operations to bring the Serbs into line, in what it calls a violation of U.N. Security Council func-

tions. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic will speak before the General Assembly on Sept. 26. On that day. the foreign ministers of the 15 countries represented at the U.N. Security Council

the General Assembly meeting will be clouded by the financial picture of the United Nations, whose belt is being tightened by the U.S. administration which thinks the world body could do with some spend-thrift mea-

tion of enlarging the U.N. Security Council will be discussed. It currently has five permanent members -Britain, China, France, the United States and Russia. While almost no one agrees on how many or which countries should be admitted, Japan and Germany are among the most anxious contenders, and Italy their

strongest opposition. But India, Pakistan, Brazil and Argentina have also made cases for entry, either based on economic might or regional representation. Their candidacy is sure to be a hot topic for debate, diplo-

will meet and adopt a joint declaration, diplomats say. The 50th anniversary of

It is certain that the ques-

## Labour leader, 2 teenage boys killed in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) - A labour leader and two teenage boys were among six people killed Sunday in a ritual of daily killings that has terrorised this southern port city in recent months.

Uzman Ghani, a senior activist of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party and one of the country's biggest labour leaders, died in hospital following an attack on his vehicle by at least four

gunmen, police said.

Also Sunday gunmen sprayed a busy shopping centre in a middle-class neighbourhood in west Karachi with bullets killing two teenage boys and wounding another three, they said.

Mr. Ghani's bodyguard Police Const. Mohammad Javed died immediately. A passerby, Feroze Kanga, was killed in the cross fire.

Union president at the newly privatised Muslim Commercial Bank, Mr. Ghani gained national recognition as a labour leader 20 years ago when he led a campaign against a government scheme to nationalise the banks.

He was jailed several times for his union activi-

"He was a fine man, a gentleman. We don't know who killed him he never hurt anyone," said Riaz Ahmed Khan, a close friend of Mr. Ghani's.

The 1,500 branches of the Muslim Commercial Bank located throughout Pakistan declared Monday a holiday to mourn Mr. Ghani's death. No one has taken responsibility for the attack.

Centre assault occurred during the busy noon hour, when the 250-shop centre was packed with shoppers. "This area has been peaceful. Until now there hasn't

The Aligarh Shopping

been any tension," said Mohammad Afzal, a store owner. "armed youths came in and just started firing." Police routinely blame much of the violence in Karachi on militant members of the largest faction of

the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, led by Altaf Hussein. "The shooting at Aligarh is an act of terrorism," said Police Const. Mohammad Saddiq, although it's not clear who was behind it.

Elsewhere in the city police found a bullet-riddled body of a teenage boy family living together on the same estate, the friend said. by midday to six. Cuba reportedly arrests ex-CIA agent Terpil's detention.

WASHINGTON (R) Convicted arms trafficker and former CIA agent Frank Terpil, who fled the United States in 1980, is under house arrest in Cuba, the Washington Post reported in its Sunday editions.

Quoting unidentified sources, the newspaper said Mr. Terpil, one of the most notorious fugitives from U.S. justice, was detained in Havana about three weeks

Cuban authorities were investigating his business practices on the island. according to the report from

Mr. Terpil fled the United

States in September 1980 in the face of charges he sold 10,000 automatic weapons to undercover police agents. He was convicted in absentia in 1981 in a New York state court and sentenced to 53 years in prison. Mr. Terpil, 56, also was charged in federal court with

training terrorists in Libya, and allegedly collaborated with another renegade CIA agent, Edwin Wilson, to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons and explosives to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in the late 1970s.

U.S. officials told the Post that Cuban authorities had not informed them of Mr.

Mr. Terpil is the second major U.S. fugitive to be

detained by Cuban authorities in the past few months. In May, fugitive financier Robert Vesco was arrested on charges of trying to cheat the government of President Fidel Castro. One source quoted by the

Post said Cuban authorities were conducting an ongoing investigation into Mr. Terpil's activities.

Mr. Terpil worked as a courier and communications expert with the CIA from

# Hong Kong hosts historic polls

freest elections in colonial history, but China showed its anger by repeating vows to throw out the legislature when Beijing resumes power in 1997. Within an hour of the poll

opening China renewed its pledge that the Legislative Council being elected Sunday would be short-lived. For the first time in Hong Kong's 150 years of colonial rule, all 60 seats in the Leg-

islative Council will be elected following controversial democratic reforms introduced by Governor Chris Patten last year. China is furious that Mr.

Patten, likely to be Britain's last governor in the colony, pushed through his reforms just before the transition in 1997.

In Sunday reports carried by Beijing's official Xinhua News Agency, China said Mr. Patten had contravened

the Sino-British Joint Decla-

ration on Hong Kong's

colony after 1997, and agreements and understandings between China and Britain.

"The Chinese government and the standing committee of China's National People's Congress have made it clear that Hong Kong Legislative Council, district boards and municipal councils elected under Mr. Patten's package will stop functioning in mid-1997 when China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong," the Xinhua report

A defiant Patten said the remarks were astonishing and showed Beijing was not in touch with Hong Kong people.

"It seems to me to be an astonishing way to try to win the hearts and minds in Hong Kong to say, at the moment when the people in Hong Kong are taking part in the most credible and democratic election in our history, that you're going to give the whole thing the thumbs down," he told reporters.

and do." China, to the amazement of many, has not called for a

boycott of the polls. It urged

"patriotic" people to take

part and pro-Beijing candidates are contesting many seats. Voters had their minds on 1997 as they cast their bal-

China carried out its threat. "The election is useful, but if the Chinese government threatens to abolish the legislature after 1997 at least the successful candidates can serve the public for two years before that," Tang ,55,

## Paper: Duchess set to move back with Andrew

LONDON (AP) - The Duchess of York may move back to the estate she and Prince Andrew received as a wedding present, a newspaper report said Sunday - and that could lead to a reunion. "He wants me back, I love him and we both love the girls,"the News Of The World quoted the former Sarah Ferguson as telling

don't know what's stopping The newspaper said she and Prince Andrew had picked out a stable block on the Sunninghill Park estate to convert into a house for her and their two daughters, Princess Beatrice, 7, and

unidentified friends. "I

Princess Eugenie, 5. Queen Elizabeth II gave southern England as a wedding present when he married in 1986. The couple has been separated since 1992, and the duchess was forced to move out of a house she was renting last year when the landlords opted to sell it. Prince Andrew still lives in

the estate's main house. Prince Andrew and the duchess were due to discuss particulars this week, the newspapers quoted her

friends as saying.

The two have been seen in public with increasing frequently. The whole family vacationed in Spain last month, and a photograph of the couple sharing a friendly laugh at a charity golf tour-

nament made front pages. The fact that they are no Prince Andrew the estate in longer expected to perform official royal duties --- the queen took them off the "civil list," the royal payroll, in 1992 — has eased the pressure on their marriage, the newspaper said.

Prince Andrew is now sup-

ported by his mother's pri-

vate income, and the

duchess makes an indepen-

dent living writing children's books. The report said the duchess' plan to reunite with her husband had the support of Princess Diana. who is estranged from Prince

Andrew's older brother, Prince Charles. Nonetheless, the reunion may go no further than the HONG KONG (R) — Hong future, the basic law, which Kong Sunday staged its is supposed to govern the

said.

"I think they should think again. I certainly think that they should get a little bit more into tune with what people in Hong Kong think

A schoolteacher who only gave his surname, Tang, said the elections would give Hong Kong a small taste of self-government even if

All tested being

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#### **Astronauts** Out a population decin stay trenen surrounding Ru to from the largest city keeps of terms cash reward who give him warm; new duds C Blocked Payment in ely to make teniale to ms of Nichny Novale work ant to task out and a

CANAVERAL, CAPE Florida (AP) - They did their best to get chilly in the freezing vacuum of space, staying in the shadow of the

But to NASA's delight, Endeavour's two spacewalking astronauts kept warm Saturday thanks to new heated gloves, thermal socks, boot liners and toasty long underwear.
"Couldn't be more com-

is an incommendation of the party of the par + fortable," Michael Gernhardt said. "These gloves are working great. I'm

Gernhardt and James Voss spent nearly an hour each on the end of the robot arm, a raised 30 feet above the cargo bay in the coldest possuproves the quality of space, station construction space, station construction - site. The temperature dipped down to minus 120 degrees Fahrenheit

One by one, the spacewalkers remained motionless on the robot arm in an attempt to get cold --- to no avail. Voss, in fact, had to turn off the fingertip heaters in his gloves at one point.

The two men were just as comfortable bustling around the cargo bay, although the thermometre down there registered a mere minus 75.

NASA wants as much practice as possible working in this deep-freeze environment before construction of an international space station begins in two years.

Officials estimate American astronauts will have to perform 200 to 250 hours of spacewalks per year from 1999 through 2001 to assemble and maintain the huge orbiting outpost.
That's four to five times the amount performed in 1993, NASA's peak spacewalking year because of the Hubble space telescope repair mis-

Saturday's successful spacewalk 212 miles above earth eased some of the worries.

Unlike NASA's previous -spacewalk, cut short by astronauts' freezing fingers. Saturday's excursion lasted the full 6 hours.

"I have something to smile about," Voss said once he was back inside the crew

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sped up production of the battery-heated gloves following February's frigid 'spacewalk and made other improvements to the 10.4 million spacesuits. Russian cosmonants don't seem to suffer from cold hands during spacewalks because of their thicker, but more cum-

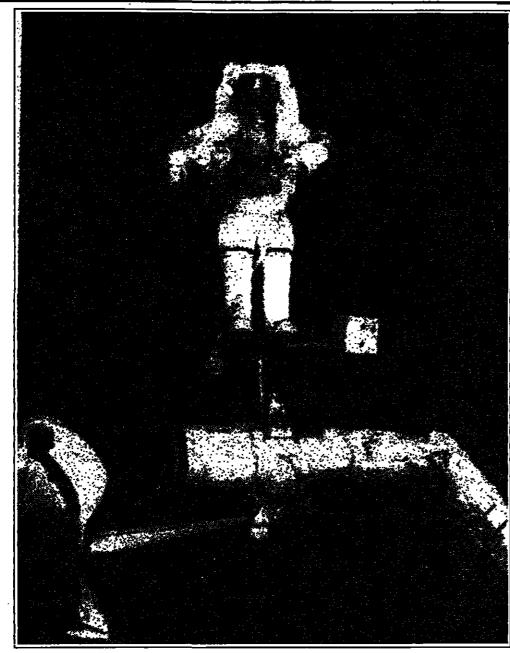
bersome, gloves. As for station-style work, neither Gernhardt nor Voss had any trouble handling an aluminum shield similar to what will cover the Internasional Space Station to protect against tiny meteorites, or rolling up a sheet of ther-

Jean City Constitution mal insulation. - They used a variety of tools to loosen and tighten fasteners and connectors at a work bench, all designed for station use. They also tead placards from varying distances to test their from Mr. Life to the formation of the fo improved helmet lights. It almost sounded as though they were visiting the eye

doctor\_ property to the control to the It was the first spacewalk the great without as entities of the win of for Gemhardt and Voss -The and the part 'deliberate on NASA's part. announcement from the second of frankling The space agency wants to of translation to the least translation of translation to the least translation translation to the least translation translation to the least translation transla ment benefit handling is spacewalks as possible.

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Justice Haberman and landing. Bonice The Principle and major job in orbit for Endeavour's five astronauts. They spent the past week reeling a pair of balky science satellites in and out of the the war to translate the war to transla Saturday was the last



Astronaut James Voss waits on the space shuttle Endeavour's robot arm evaluating modifications on his space suit (AFP photo)

## French nuclear tests expected to dominate IAEA conference

VIENNA (AFP) — France's controversial resumption of nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific will be high on the political agenda of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) general conference opening here

Of the 122 IAEA member countries, several have said they will take advantage of the five-day Vienna conference to express their opposition to the new series of underground tests on Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

A regional group comprising Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia. Malaysia, the Philippines, Mexico and Chili has tabled a draft resolution expressing regret at the resumption of the tests. diplomats here said.

The text argues that the tests are unhelpful to the process of international disarmament and to the treaty of nuclear non-proliferation and that they contradict the spirit of the future nuclear

test ban treaty. The resolution will be put to the vote at the general

The delegates will also

discuss a French request to the IAEA to send a scientific mission to Mururoa to test for radioactivity, once the series of nuclear tests begun on Sept. 5 is completed.

Eleven IAEA countries called Wednesday at a closed-door meeting of the the IAEA Governors' Council, for the right to monitor the results of any new study of radioactivity in the South Australia, New Zealand.

the Philippines and Ireland allowed to decide the conditions under which this new survey will be carried out. In a report published at the beginning of September by

its Laboratory of Marine Environment in Monaco, the IAEA said there was no radioactive contamination of the marine environment round Mururoa. The laboratory surveyed

the area round the atoll last year from Sept. 26 to Oct. 10 - two years after the last French nuclear test.

Other issues to be discussed at the conference include the situation in Iraq after numerous United Nations and IAEA inspections aimed at preventing Iraq developing weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. IAEA inspections of

nuclear facilities in North Korea will also be on the agenda. IAEA inspectors are permanently in North Korea : to monitor the "freeze" of nuclear installations decreed by Pyongyang under an agreement with the United States.

North Korea agreed to halt its facilities in return for assistance in replacing its old-fashioned graphite reactors which produce large quantities of weapons-grade oranium, with safer lightwater reactors

A special scientific project on the rehabilitation of the environment and the management of nuclear waste and on making nuclear reactors safer, will be organised on the sidelines of this 39th IAEA conference.

The conference opening Monday will include a message from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and a speech by Director-General

## Huge typhoon batters Tokyo area

TOKYO (R) — Typhoon Oscar, one of the strongest to hit the Tokyo region since World War II, buffeted Japan Sunday, forcing the cancellation of 200 airline flights and closing roads and railwav lines.

Winds of up to 150 kilometres per hour lashed the Pacific coast, the Meteorological Agency said, but no major damage was reported as waves crashed against concrete wave breaks.

Flights from Haneda, Tokyo's domestic airport. were suspended and a spokesman for the international airport at Narita told Reuters nine departures and nine arrivals had been cancelled there.

Kyodo News Agency said a squid fishing boat with three crew had gone missing recorded in the morning, and

off the main southern island of Kyushu due to high waves.

It also said that two people had suffered minor injuries in Shizuoka and Kanagawa, prefectures west of Tokyo. and that six houses in the area had been damaged. Some 5,200 households in prefectures surrounding Tokyo experienced blackouts due to damaged power lines, it said. At 10 a.m. local time

(0100 GMT), the centre of the typhoon was about 200 kilometres south of Tokyo, and heading north-northwest at 50 kph (30 mph), according to the Meteorological

At Miyake-Jima, an island south of Tokyo, a gust of 199 kph (125 mph) was

Choshi, a town northeast of Tokyo, saw a gust of 150 kph (94 mph), the agency said. The biggest gusts in central Tokyo were over 100 kpb (65 mph).

Heavy rain fell in Tokyo and Yokohama and some parts of the region were expected to see up to 500 millimetres (20 inches) by Monday morning. Some Tokyo department

stores said they had only 10 per cent of their usual customers for a Sunday morning, according to NHK Television.

Railway lines reduced or cancelled train services, and bullet trains reduced speed over some routes. Ferry services off the Tokyo coast were also forced to stop

# Poll gives Spain's opposition party parliamentary majority

MADRID (AFP) — if general elections were to be held in Spain now, the rightwing opposition Popular Party (PP) would gain an absolute majority in parliament, an opinion poll estimated Sunday.

The Sigma-Dos poll, published in Sunday's edition of

the Madrid daily El Mundo, said the PP would gain 42 per cent of votes and the ruling Socialist Party (PSOE) 28.3 per cent. A left-wing coalition, Izquierda Unida (IU), would obtain 14.1 per

The figures meant that the PP would have an absolute

The poll is the first to be published since the Catalan nationalist Convergencia 1 Union (CIU) party decided to withdraw its crucial parliamentary support for the beleaguered Socialists who have been hit by a series of

# Balladur comeback adds to Juppe's problems

PARIS (AFP) — Failed presidential candidate Edouard Balladur is set to make a political comeback this week that could constitute a considerable nuisance for French Prime Minister Alain Juppe and his government.

Former Prime Minister Balladur, who was defeated by his "friend of 30 years" Jacques Chirac in presidential polls last May, was standing for re-election to the French National Assembly Sunday in by-elections along with seven of his exministers.

Most of them backed Mr. Balladur over Mr. Chirac in the presidential battle and their return to parliament could make life difficult for Mr. Juppe, who faces a crucial test Wednesday when he presents the country's 1996

Three of Mr. Balladur's closest ministers were also standing Sunday - his prescampaign spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy, the former budget minister, former Development Aid Minister Bernard Debre and Bernard Bosson.

Mr. Balladur and Mr. Sarkozy were standing in safe seats, the former in Paris and the latter in Neuilly-Sur-Seine, a western suburb of the capital, and hoped for election in the first round Sunday. But an expected high abstention rate could force them into a second

> Other Balladur supporters, including former Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Alain Lamassoure (European affairs), were expected to be elected Sunday after being forced into run-offs the previous week by record abstention rates -70 per cent in some con-

round poll on Sept. 24.

Under the French electoral system, ministers are obliged to hand over their parliamentary seats to substitutes, who must themselves resign if the ministers lose their portfolios, provoking byelections.

Mr. Balladur returned to the hustings last week pledging to back "the unity and the cohesion" of the ruling

Minister conservative coalition, consisting of the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) and the centre-right

> Union for French Democracy (UDF). Mr. Sarkozy said there was "no alternative to the success of Jacques Chirac," but Mr. Balladur and his supporters were expected to provide only grudging support for Mr. Juppe, laced

with plenty of criticisms.

The presidential battle left wounds in the conservative coalition that have scarcely healed. Politicians who backed Mr. Balladur were excluded from ministerial portfolios while Mr. Juppe has been criticised for concentrating power in his own hands by appointing lightweights to the defence and

foreign affairs ministries. In addition, he sacked the only heavyweight in his government last August -Finance Minister Alain Madelin — leaving himself in control of another key

Mr. Balladur's Socialist opponent in his Paris constituency, 37-year-old Laurence Dumont, said the former prime minister's main aim in seeking re-election was "to place himself at the head of a rebellion against Jacques Chirac".

Criticism of Mr. Juppe will be easy. The prime minister is faced with the next-toimpossible task of keeping Mr. Chirac's expensive cam-. paign promises --- slashing France's nearly 12 per cent unemployment while cutting the budget deficit in order to keep the country on course for European Monetary Union with the aim of cutting the deficit to three per cent of GDP by 1997.

On Wednesday Mr. Juppe's 1996 budget will be presented to a cabinet meeting and the prime minister will address a meeting of parliamentarians of the ruling coalition on the budget and on his plans to reform the social security system, whose deficit is likely to reach 180 billion francs (\$36 billion) by the end of 1996 if no action is taken.

## Marilyn batters Caribbean; heads out to sea

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Hurricane Marilyn toppled a four-story apartment block on St. Thomas, trapping 40 to 50 people, and killed three other people as it ripped through the Caribbean Saturday before moving out to open sea.

The U.S. Coast Guard conducted sea rescue operations late Saturday in St. Thomas Harbour in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where some 70 large boats were destroyed and 60. to 70 people reported to be on life boats or clinging to debris.

Winds of 110 mph (176 kph) battered the eastern point of Puerto Rico, sending 11,000 people into shelters and damaging or destroying 500 homes before the storm moved out to sea.

Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said that at 11 p.m. edt (0300 GMT) Marilyn was 290 kilometres north-northwest of San Juan moving northwest at about 10 mph (16

It appeared likely the hurricane, which was moving into open water with sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph), would skirt the eastern seaboard of the United States.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico, a U.S. Territory, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and ordered federal aid to help recovery efforts. The Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA) sent 200 people with emergency communication, power generation and other support equipment to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Main power lines were down in St. Croix and some structural damage was reported, including island's water treatment plant.

FEMA had no word on attempts to rescue individuals trapped in the apartment building in St. Thomas, where 70 to 80 per cent of homes and buildings sustained heavy damage and many people were seriously injured. Approximately 4,000 rolls

of plastic sheeting were sent to affected areas and provisions had been made for delivery of food, water, blankets, and portable toilets, FEMA said. U.S. Coast Guard officials

in Sán Juan said 100 patients were airlifted to Puerto Rico from St. Thomas's hospital, which suffered blown out windows and flooding when battered by 127 mph (204 kph) winds and heavy rains

St. Thomas lost electrical power and telephone lines Friday and its desalination plant was knocked out. Stores sold out of batteries, ice and other supplies and the island was placed under curfew, officials said.

On St. Croix, trailer parks were destroyed and roofs were ripped off many houses, officials said.

emergency and military

Airports in St. Thomas and St. Croix were opened for flights late Saturday while the San Juan, Puerto Rico, airport was reported to be fully operational.

Some 424 shelters housing 12,538 people were opened in Puerto Rico, where Marilyn caused landslides on two main highways and authorities sent disaster teams to the small islands of Vieques and Culebra to assess damage.

. Police were deployed in Puerto Rico's main commercial centres to stop looters.

Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello estimated at a news conference that 70 per cent of the homes on Culebra were destroyed or significantly damaged.

The wind was very strong, it sounded like a cat screaming," Ramona Carillo of Culebra told the San Juan Star.

Mr. Rossello said 80,000 people on Puerto Rico remained without water and 50.000 without electricity. Three highways remained closed because of landslides and debris.

#### Suu Kyi: Be patient in bringing democracy to Burma

Malaysia (AP) — Suppressed Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is asking her country to be patient in bringing democracy to Burma as she tries to cooperate with the junta that imprisoned her, according to an interview published Sun-

In an interview in the Malaysian newspaper the Sunday Star, Ms. Suu Kyi said the goal of her National League for Democracy (NLD), formed in 1988 remains the same: "To bring

democracy to Burma." In the interview, given at her residence in Rangoon last week, Ms. Suu Kyi, who was released from house arrest on July 10, said she was aware some people were growing impatient and waiting for her to act. "There should be expecta-

tions, but it should be tempered with an intelligent observation of the situation," she said. "the people ... have to learn to control their impatience," Ms. Suu Kyi said. The current military junta,

called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), refused to hand over power to Ms. Suu Kyi's opposition party in 1990. when the NLD decisively won Burma's first multiparty elections in 30 years.

Instead, the junta arrested her and other opposition

members and renamed the country Myanmar. Ms. Suu Kyi said that

since her release, she has been very busy reconsolidating the NLD and meeting with political, nonpolitical and student groups. "The people all want

democracy and a system in keeping with the will of the people," she said. She said she is prepared to

work with the junta to achieve a democratic government "The military did say their

aim was to bring democracy to Burma. So if we have a common aim, then we should work together," she said, adding without elaboration that she has a "line of communication" with the ruling SLORC.

Ms. Suu Kyi said she and her colleagues have no bitterness over their imprisonment "because we managed to strengthen ourselves with all the problems we had to face and the sufferings we had been subjected to.

She has no intention of going to her busband's home in Britain or elsewhere because the government might not let her back into Burma. "It does not make me feel restricted because my work is here (in Burma)," she said.

She said it was not necessarily the NLD's intention to obtain power in its efforts to bring democracy to Burma.

## Bangladesh remains paralysed by marathon strike

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh was Sunday in the tight grip of a crippling strike for the second day, the latest opposition effort to oust the government and force early elections.

Residents of the capital, Dhaka, woke up late with no hurry to go to their offices, children enjoyed a holiday with schools shut while not to be named. transports remained off the streets, police and witnesses

Sunday is a working day in Bangladesh.

Thousands of police and paramilitary troops enforcing tight security in the strike-bound city of nine million ducked under roadside sheds or under trees as moderate rain swept the capital early Sunday.

"It's the dullest but most successful strike," said a police officer commading a

riot police in the city's Ramna area. He said fewer rickshaws

ventured onto the streets Sunday apparently for lack of passengers. "I guess half of the population have either left the city on an enforced boliday or stayed home." said the officer who asked

Many government officials also abandoned plans to walk to their offices after pro-strike activists stripped several of them almost nude Saturday, police said.

Reporters in major Bangladeshi cities including the port of Chittagong and the southern industrial city of Khulna said the strike was "absolutely total" after the first 24 hours.

"It's a spontaneous stoppage. There is little effort to enforce the strike with only

platoon of specially trained a few pickets here and there and the number of explosions much less than during previous strikes," one Chittagong official said.

The 72-hour strike, which began at 6 a.m. Saturday, was called by major opposition parties, including the Awami League, in their ongoing effort to force Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down and allow early elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

Mrs. Khaleda, elected in 1991 in what were billed as Bangladesh's first free polls. has refused to bow out.

Nearly 60 people were injured Saturday as pickets attacked a train at Narayanganj near Dhaka. Six others were wounded when a bomb, packed with metal fragments, exploded in the capital, witnesses said.

Newspapers Sunday said up to 200 people had been injured in sporadic violence across the country on the first day of the stoppage.

Trains, buses and ferries mostly did not move Sunday, transport officials said. But airline flights were expected to operate, they said.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, arch-rival of Mrs. Khaleda, urged the prime minister Sunday to give up her "craze for power" and hand over power to the chief justice before the country was pushed into big-

ger turmoil. People have given a clear verdict against your government by spontaneously responding to strikes. You must realise it now," Mrs. Hasina said in a newspaper statement.

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#### Lost in the diaspora

THE FAILURE of last week's meeting by the four-party committee on the displaced persons coincided with the expulsion by Libya of hundreds of Palestinians to demonstrate in unambiguous terms the pressing need for an equitable and quick solution to the plight of Palestinian refugees. What the failure of the meeting did was highlight the intransigence of Israel in addressing one of the most significant dimensions of its occupation of Arab lands. The dilemma of the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya and who have been stranded in the waters of the sea and the sands of the desert says volumes about the duty of the Arab countries and the international community in putting pressure on Israel to agree to a workable solution to the refugees and displaced persons' problems.

U.N. resolutions and international law prescribe solutions to these issues. Israel is legally obliged to allow for the return of the displaced persons and to recognise the right of the refugees to either return or compensation. Hiding behind the pretexts that what is lacking is a mechanism for the repatriation of the displaced persons defies logic. If the right of return is recognised, the mechanism for attaining this right becomes a technical matter which experts can settle. But obviously it is more than technicalities that define the Israeli position. The Jewish state wants to minimise the number of people who can return to their land. Thus procrastinating is one tool that Israel is using to force the Palestinians and host countries of displaced persons into making concessions. That effort should not be allowed to succeed.

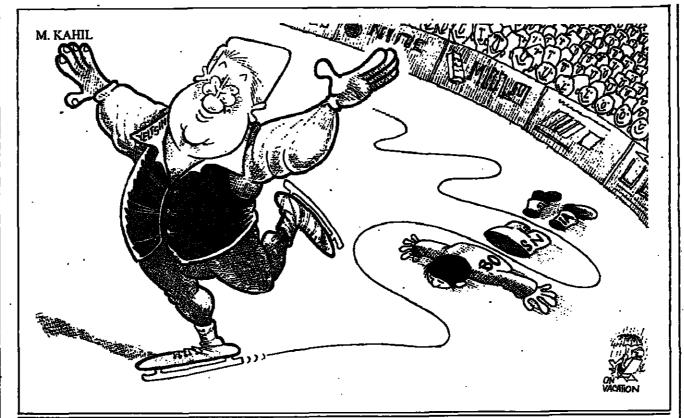
But until the issue is resolved, the Arab nd other countries hosting refugees have a responsibility to provide them with the decent life to which all human beings are entitled. Nothing can justify the refusal of some Arab countries to host the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya, especially when those Palestinians carry travel documents that were issued by them. Leaving the Palestinians to suffer under the heat of the desert or floating aimlessly in the sea is a cruelty that can be neither understood nor condoned.

The only acceptable long-term solution to the plight of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons is a recognition of their right to return and finding the means to exercise this right. But until this happens, there is no reason why refugees who have been residing in some countries for decades should not enjoy the citizenship of the host states. This would in no way jeopardise the chances for an acceptable solution to their tragedy. When such a solution is finally found, the Palestinians can choose whether they want to go back to their homeland or stay in their countries of residence.

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said Sunday that except for Jordan, Arab countries are unwilling to accept Palestinians evicted from Libya. Fahed Al Fanek said that Jordan has been accepting Palestinians expelled from Palestine and Kuwait and welcomed expellees from Libya with temporary Jordanian passports and it has been doing so out of humanitarian reasons. Likewise, the Bosnian refugees have been accepted by several European countries because they are Europeans and out of humanitarian considera-tions, he added. Saying that Syria, and Lebanon have refused to accept the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya, the writer said that this stand is causing additional suffering to the Palestinians and creating new tragedies for hem although the Palestinians have no ambition to create a substitute homeland for themselves in the Arab countries. Perhaps the Libyan leader has resorted to such move to take revenge on President Yasser Arafat for concluding a deal with the Israelis on the self-rule areas and perhaps the Libyan expulsion order was taken in a fit of anger on the part of President Muammer Qadhafi or even to please certain world powers, said the writer. He said that by expelling the Palestinians, who are stranded at sea and in the desert, the Libyan leadership has committed an inhuman act tantamount to executing thousands of unfortunate Palestinian families.

COMMENTING ON the Ministry of Public Works' eclared intention of charging road tolls on cars using artum highways, a writer in Al Dustour said the collection should be solely used for the purpose of maintaining roads. Mohammad Subeihi said that the public can be charged for using the roads if the roads are of high and international specifications and are provided with various services. The writer said that should the system be applied, the Ministry of Public Vorks is expected to follow modern techniques as to controlling the collection of toll and in guaranteeing emergency assistance to the road users in case of accidents.



## Why liberalism isn't allowed to die

By Michael Wines

WASHINGTON — You probably think liberalism dried up and blew away years ago. There was George McGovern, but Richard Nixon clobbered him. Then Spiro Agnew worked liberals over really good, before he quit. Then Ronald Reagan, in '84, had Walter Mondale for lunch. Michael S. Dukakis, he actually said "I'm a liberal" this was on television and even though he added right away that he was a Truman or Kennedy-type liberal and not some dopesmoking bomb-thrower

got clobbered worse than McGovern. Bill Clinton ran against liberalism, and is still in the doghouse for being too liberal. Hubert Humphrey

who took over Berkeley, he

is dead. You probably think liber-

alism is, too. Boy, are you wrong. It is living the good life in, get this, the hearts and minds of conservatives.

This may seem strange, because conservatives were kind of like the big comet that wiped out the liberal dinosaurs in the elections last fall. But try to find a conservative this summer, especially one looking for a bigger job, who isn't reading "Jurassic Park" over a liberals have been cloned and are scaring the living daylights out of people.

Look at Senator Bob Dole, the candidate for president, from Kansas. Last week, he told the American Legion that the "liberal academic elite" is wrecking American culture by letting schools teach immigrant kids in their own languages instead of English and by rewriting history books to "glorify other . cultures" and wage "war on traditional American

"The keys to our unity are under attack from our

government and from intellectual elites who seem embarrassed by America," he said. "What we see as opportunity, they see as oppression. Where we see a proud past, they see a legacy of shame. Where we see a proud past, they see a legacy of shame. What we hold as moral truth, they

This was pretty rough stuff, but Mr. Dole is still new at this. Newt Gingrich, who was conservative before conservative was cool, socked liberals nine times in one speech to Republicans this summer, including a poke at "liberal goo-

This month Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, who wants to be president, called Mr. Clinton "the last president of the liberal era." This even though Mr. Clinton had just showed that he was not, either, by telling a story about how liberals used to think people on welfare shouldn't have to work — hah! — "but now almost nobody does." Think that, he

Republicans even use the L-word against other Republicans. Pete Wilson, the California governor, said last week that Mr. Dole shouldn't be president because he makes "conces-Mr. Dole unloaded on Mr. Wilson and called him "one of the most liberal Republicans ever to seek national office." And Lamar Alexander, trailing Mr. Wilson in the White House race, through one of his campaign gofers, called him "a big-taxing, big-spending liberal Republican."

Anyway, you get the idea. Mr. Reagan attacked tax-and-spend liberals and turned politics upside-down doing it, but, to be fair, there were a lot more liberals around then. Now liberals are scarce as chicken lips, but conservatives

sound like Reagan cubed. Hard to figure, on the face of things. But here are a few theories as to why both political parties think this all may make perfect

Liberals are still in charge. Conservatives may hold more seats in Congress and sell more books. But the big Federal bureaucracy that liberals built is still there, and until it is blown up, the job isn't done. This is why Mr. Dole warned that anything the govern-ment touches is "ripe for infection.

In this view, modern politics is like the old movie 'Alien," where the conservatives are Sigourney Weaver, trying to run a tight spaceship, but the — they're the voters. see — is in danger of being taken over by these snakelike creatures that have been hiding in the ceiling all

You do not have to believe liberals are snake-like to see that conservatives believe government is the last stronghold of liberalism and its legacy. And many voters agree, even though they don't want to give up the liberal Medicare and welfare and retirement benefits that are most of government's business these

"In every post-election poll since 1968, the major grievance people have about the Democratic Party is that they see it as a topdown, big bureaucratic entity," said Ted Van Dyk, a Democratic strategist who was a Humphrey adviser. "We're all seen as little Lyndon Johnsons, the people who passed out all the stuff that has to be revised because it got out of con-

trol."
Conservatives need a good enemy. It is tough to run a revolution without something revolting around

to overturn, says Ken Kashigian, a California Re-publican strategist. The liberal threat is and insecurity blanket.

'Republicans aren't so used to controlling Congressional committees and the agenda, and I think part of this is that they're afraid all of this is going to be suddenly taken away," he

This doesn't mean that the liberal threat does not exist. Mr. Kashigian said that it does, likening it to a big bear hibernating in the woods, not snakes in a space-ship. "The bear may not be lurking around in February," he said. "But he's hiding. He's waiting for the spring thaw."

This is politics, dummy. Maybe the liberal threat is snakes, or maybe it is a bear. Or maybe it is a Hollywood dinosaur, trotted out to give everybody a few safe goosebumps before being hauled backstage for another few years. Whatever, to win primaries a candidate has to appeal to party diehards, who actually care enough to vote. And most diehards care because they are at war against some alien ideology.

"When you're talking to Republican primary voters, you're talking to Republican activists, and Republican activists have had it with liberalism. When you talk to them, you have to light their fire," said Peggy Noonan, Mr. Reagan's speechwriter. "Just as you're for motherhood and apple pie, it's important to remember that we are united against liberalism. Even though there are no liberals anymore."

Oh, one other thing. It worked for the Democrats. "We ran against Herbert Hoover for 50 years," Mr. Van Dyk said. "Some guys are still running against Hoover.'

The New York Times

# Human Rights File By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

## The right to speak your mother tongue

I WAS naturally taken by surprise when I first heard that certain Republican quarters are pushing for making English the official language of the U.S.

I had presumed all along that English had been the official language of the country over since its constitution.

official language of the country ever since its creation. What seems to trouble many Americans is the creeping use of languages other than English even for official use. It has become evident that in California, for example, the use of Spanish has superseded English in many areas as the

working language for conducting even official business.

With wave after wave of new emigrants flooding the country and insisting on retaining their cultural roots and languages, the country began to look more like a hybrid than a unified country with a distinct culture and political heritage. This, many Americans are now saying, is certainly divisive and could end up becoming a time bomb that could destroy the nation. Such voices draw heavily on the experiences of Canada where the policy of promoting diversity has meant the near breakup of the country along ethnic and language lines. Instead of promoting diversity, many Americans are calling for the promotion of commonaity by making English the only official language of their nations. If new immigrants wish to speak their mother tongue and retain their unique culture and heritage, they should have opted, so the argument goes, to stay in their homeland instead of emigrating to another country which admittedly has its own unique national culture and herit-

I must say that I personally agree with the American argument that there must be one official language for their country as a tool to encourage the establishment of a national culture and the forging of a unified nation. If people choose to leave their original country for whatever reason, they owe it to their new country to become integrated into its mainstream by speaking its language and adapting to the new cultural, economic and political milieu as quickly as possible. There is no sense in people emigrating to the U.S., Canada or Australia and insisting

on maintaining their original identities. People have a natural right to be proud of their own language and heritage, but the best way to express this attachment is to stay in their country of origin no matter how big temptations to live somewhere else permanently

I see therefore no problem with the desire of many Americans to make their language the official and working language of all the peoples who make America their adopted nation. We are not talking here about minority rights of original minorities living in a certain country. Minorities have certain rights to their language, religion and culture and these rights are well-protected under

various human rights instruments and conventions. People emigrating to other countries cannot be viewed as minorities in the sense the term is used in human rights treaties. It would be interesting to pursue this point in human rights committees so that the international community would benefit from their ruling. I am not aware of any such judgement by any international human rights fora, but I presume that when the issue is brought up, there would be a decision against granting emigrants absolute right to use their respective languages in their adopted country, especially when it comes to conducting official

## Juppe austerity gives trade unions cause to rally members

By John Follain

Reuter

PARIS — The pioneers of France's trade union movement turn a weary hundred this week, grateful that austerity dictated by the conservative government has given them a cause with which to rally their dwindling

membership.

Both the communist-led Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) and the splinter, left-leaning Force Ouv-riere (FO) union had planned ritual anniversary celebrations in the city of Limoges, where the impassioned congress that founded their

movement took place. But Prime Minister Alain Juppe's pledge of a tight rein on the wages of five million civil servants next year has abruptly changed the tone of the anniversary.

In Limoges, a hastilycalled protest march has been grafted on to a period costume pageant tracing unionist victories since the September

1895 congress.
"The celebration was going to be festive. Now it's going to be a day of protest. We will take the anniversary opportunity to stage a strong demonstration," said FO official Jean Jayer, in charge of the celebration.

France's leading unions the CGT and FO are among the most militant - have threatened to stage a strike in mid-October if Mr. Juppe does not relent.

Marc Blondel, the combative FO leader, was quick to raise the banner of workers rights. He accused Mr. Juppe of betraying promises made during the spring presidential election campaign and

branded him a reactionary. Behind the fighting talk,

ment that is shedding many of its members, partly be-cause of the death of traditional bastions such as coal. steel and shipyards.

however, is a labour move-

Although unions have tra-ditionally suffered from weak membership — save for 1936 when the popular front instituted paid holidays and for 1945 when the war ended the ratio of paid-up members as a share of the workforce has shrunk by two thirds

since 1974 to eight per cent. The CGT, which boasted more than two million members in 1976, recently acknowledged that it had fallen to an historic low of 630,000 - relegating it to second place behind the pro-socialist

FO clings to its claimed one million members. "In saying that, I lie no more and no less than others," says Mr. 🥦 Blondel. Observers put the real number closer to 400,000 at best.

Reflecting further apathy on work-related issues, French wage-earners abstain in ever-greater numbers in elections for workers' councils and labour courts.

"Trade unions have been hit by the loss of their industrial bastions and the crisis of communism," said labour historian Michel Dreyfus, author of a book on the CGT.

"But they have also suffered from the rise in unemployment and part-time work, and the privatisation drive which has changed the public sector where unions

were often strong."
The once-powerful labour federations are also paying the price for the divisions that have plagued the movement since World War II, many of them fuelled by outdated ideological conflicts.

#### CORRECTION

IN THE article "Women and China - majic of Beijing '95" (Jordan Times, Sept. 17) the last sentence in the 11th paragraph should have read: But one form of communications, the most silent of all, was heard above all shouts and reached beyond all pamphlets. The first sentence in the following paragraph should have read: These were the banners woven by women in rural and urban areas all over the planet, entrusting their toil and their art to carry their aspirations to the forum.

## Portugal's socialists see power within their grasp

By Richard Waddington Reuter

LISBON - For the first time in a decade, Portugal's opposition Socialist Party has a real chance of returning to power in elections on Octo-

Like Germany's Social Democrats and Britain's Labour Party the centre-left in Portugal suffered years of electoral eclipse, shut out by a combination of a conservative mood gripping Europe into the 1990s and a powerful ruling figure.
But Prime Minister Anibal

Cavaco Silva, who along with Germany's Helmut Kohl is one of Europe's longestserving heads of government, is not leading the centre-right Social Democratic Party (PSD) into battle this time.

The change of guard, with the PSD leadership passing to the less charismatic Fernando Nogueira, the cold but authoritative Cavaco Silva's long-time number two, seems to have helped nudge the political barometer the socialists' way.

Most polls put them ahead of the PSD and even the surveys that say it is too close to call show a personal preference amongst voters for socialist leader Antonio

Guterres. An opinion poll published by the TSF Radio and the Diario de Noticias newspaper three weeks before the vote gave both parties 35 per cent. enterprise culture that Cava-But 47 per cent of those co Silva built."

questioned thought Mr. Guterres would make the better prime minister against only 37 per cent for Mr. Noguiera, the former defence "I would not bet my mort-

gage on them but they (the socialists) have got their campaign off to a great start," said one Lisbon diplomat. Right now they would seem to have their noses in front." In 1991 the Socialist Party was humiliated by Mr. Cavaco Silva as he rode the wave of new prosperity that fol-lowed Portugal's entry to the

The socialists collected just 29 per cent of the vote, one of their worst performances since democracy arrived in Portugal with the 1974 revolution, while the PSD took more than 50 per cent for the

European Union in the mid-

second successive election. Since then they have elected a new leader, worked hard to brighten up their image and come up with a set of policies to reassure the cautious Portuguese that there will be no big lurch to

the left. 'The central problem (for the socialists) is to convince people that the party has changed its spots," said another European diplomat based in Lisbon.

"People don't want some 'old-style Socialist Party which moves away from the

The party's campaign has stressed a commitment to the European Union, still a popular cause with the Portuguese, and a determination to stick to economic targets on the budget and inflation that must be met to ensure a place in the EU's plans for a future monetary union.

But it has sought to serve the tough economic medicine with a smile, promising action to improve Portugal's education system, particularly at pre-school level where the country lags behind its major European partners. It is also committed to introducing a so-called "mini-mum wage" around 17,000

escudos (\$110) a month which would be paid to the very poor with no other visible source of income. "We offer change but no rupture. This is no leap in the dark," said parliamentary

candidate Antonio Vitorino who took a leading role in drawing up the programme. "We have got rid of statist views and substituted the market values of the economy with social equity,".he

Unlike last time when the economy was only just starting to slow after years of growth of around 4.5 per cent per year, the election takes place when the recession of the early 1990s is still a vivid memory

"The first four years of Mr. Cavaco Silva were undoubtedly a success but the second term did not turn out as he promised. Now people want a change," said Mr. Vitorino. But increasingly Portu-

guese elections are becoming virtual presidential contests, focused heavily on the personality and style of the party leaders. And this could prove a winner, or a loser, for the

power-hungry socialists.

Mr. Guterres, a 45-yearold engineer, bubbles with ideas and confidence. Unlike Mr. Nogueira, who built his political career inside the party machine, Mr. Guterres is a member of parliament fully at ease in public debate or at election rallies.

In a country that has traditionally respected strong, au-stere leadership, his effervescence and speed of tongue have been branded as

There have been occasional public "gaffes" to add to the doubts.

One such lapse occurred during a television debate when Mr. Guterres said longer prison terms for drugs dealers would be one of his government's main weapons in a promised war on crime.

When asked, he could not say how long jail sentences currently were for drugs off-

"Sometimes he gives the impression of being too clever by half and the Portuguese don't' like that," one diplo-

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PIEMBER 18, 1995

rights," said Sharif Zeid. Any person who feels he has been done injustice should resort to the Inspection and Control Byreau and if he is unsatisfied (with its handling of the issue) he should resort to court," prime minister told law

makers. But to go on making accusations, said Sharif Zeid. will only harm national unity and creat disturbances in soicety.

The committee, whose report was read out at the house by leftist deputy Haddadin, said that the government should not make any arrests without obtaining a warrant from the prosecutor

IAF deputy Hammam Said

House panel report sparks confrontation (Continued from page 1) called for the release of detainees he claimed are in every citizen has a constitu-Jordanian jails while his coltional right. The Constituleague Abdul Munem Abu tion, and laws protect these Zant urged opposition

deputies to resign from Parliament in protest against the government's alleged violations of the law. Sharif Zeid said he has

issued instruction which will guarantee that no citizen is arrested before obtaining permission form the persecutor general.

But responding to criticism by the committee's reports and opposition deputies about the government's banning of public

meetings which "violate the law and barm national secu-The . committee's report

meetings, Sharif Zeid said

the government bans only-

departments in public elections and to make sure that the security apparatus does not violate the human rights of citizens.

Those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable in accordance with the law, opposition deputies

But centrist deputies stood by the government in arguing that illegal acts should be stopped and violators of the law should be stopped. from harming the country and its interests.

democracy "should not be exploited to achieve illegal objectives" adding that all citizens enjoy freedoms within the limits of the law. The centrist deputies said there were some "insignifi-

Those deputies said that

that these acts do not threaten democracy and praise the security forces for protecting the interests of the King-

'Sunday's session witnessed the strongest confrontation between the government and the opposition deputies in the extraordinary session during which the House passed the controversial legislation ending the economic and trade boycott of Israel. Law makers also endorsed a new investment and income tax laws that are geared at making the economic reforms necessary to create a more favourable investment environment in

the Kingdom. The House should reconvene in an ordinary session in October but observers expect the session to be postponed for a period of

#### also urged the government cant" excesses in the govto ensure the neutrality of its ernments acts but contended Sharif Zeid rejects deputies' allegations

## (Continued from page 1)

to differentiate between false mmours and truth.

But when matters come to a head, and this seldom happens, the violators are referred to the judiciary and this is the most ideal democratic method in handling violations or crimes," he

"It is regrettable that those who day and night call for democracy themselves consider resorting to the judiciary as an offence whereas the government does not consider the matter so whenever citizens take the government to court," he added. "Indeed it is ideal to resort to court and to the right responsible authority for the sake of ensuring the right application of

Voicing appreciation of a clause in the committee's report which stressed that freedom does not mean chaos and confusion and condemned all unconstitutional acts and illegal actions, Sharif Zeid said that the govern-

done any illegal actions, whether committed by an ordinary citizen or an official.

He said it was unfortunate that some deputies tend to level accusations at random, condemning officials before a court ruling or verdict has been passed.

Urging the deputies and the citizens to resort to democratic means while dealing with all issues, Sharif Zeid said that all citizens are responsible for democracy. Sedition and dissension can harm to all people," he said. With reference to the ques-

tion of passports about which the committee report and the deputies made remarks the prime minister made it clear that it is the right of every citizen to Jordanian nationaland any injustice done in this matter should be referred to the judiciary, especially in cases where passports have been withdrawn without legal justification.

\*To raise the subject on different occasions and various forums will harm

national unity and cause a social imbalance that could shake the foundation of the said the prime

"Any person who feels he suffered injustice should resort to the Inspection and Control Bureau and if he is unsatisfied he should resort to court," he added.

'Nationality is a sensitive subject, and the government refuses to see this question subjected to debate because every citizen has a constitutional right. The Constitution and laws protect these rights," said Sharif Zeid, adding that Jordan has opened the door for all Arabs and Muslims as a safe haven in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

The prime minister announced that he had instructed the concerned authorities to refrain from arresting any person except upon an order from the public prosecutor and that all the provisions of the law should a mobe implemented in terms for said.

ment, she said.

releasing detainees or referring them to court.

Referring to public meetings, he said the government believes in the freedom of meetings which are legally held and in accordance with rules. The government will not stop any meetings except those which violate the law and harm national security in conformity with the committee's recommendation, he

As to the case of the Muta University — involving a plot against the life of His Majesty the King — the government is conducting a full examination of the moral and material rights of the various parties involved, Sharif Zeid

The prime minister called on the deputies to promote cooperation with the govern-

The process of construction is hard and arduous, requiring cooperation from all so that Jordan can become a model of democracy," he

# U.S. optimistic of MENA summit success

leaders were a clear indication of the interest by the public as well as the private sectors in the opportunities avail-

Ms. Spero also noted that American investors -- with between \$400 billion and \$500 billion worth of funds under their control - were alteady meeting in Amman, looking at investment possibilities. She was referring to meeting that began on Saturday under the theme "New Opportunities in Ancient Lands," which grouped about 50 U.S. pension funds.

The very fact that the group was meeting in Amman was another reaffirmation of the interest of the business community, said Ms. Spero, who addressed the gathering Sunday moring.

Ms. Spero rejected reports that an agreement had been reached in secret between Egypt and the United States under which a proposed Mideast development bank, one of several institutions designed to help finance regional economic development, would be based in Egypt.

"No final decision has been taken" on the issue, as late as Friday, when an inter-Family of the party best national task force on the proposal, met in Rome, said-Ms. Spero. 'The articles of manie in granting all manie to granting all manie Medical processing all the bank have not been finalised....and it is not known yet who is coming in," she added. The group will meet again in Washington, where esticial to publicate a decision will be taken for Section 1997 Section 1997 formal announcement at the which is a family the Amman conference. tacher abet union

According to Ms. Spero, the final decisions on three Afficiency of the designation of regional institutions, including the development bank, a regional business council and a regional tourism council --"that will help transnational tourism" - will be announced at the MENA summit, "a won-'derful marketing opportunity for the region."

> The American official also played down European: reservations over the proposed bank and asserted that as far as she knew the project was going ahead and that the door will be left open for those who did not want to join it in the initial stage. As

are concerned, she said, "they haven't said yes, (but) they haven't said no" either.

In opening comments at the press conference, Ms. Spero said: "Peace and security are closer to realisation today than any other time in modern history."

Emphasising that the progress made in the peace process so far "needs to be consolidated and expanded," Ms. Spero said the U.S. was aware that "peace cannot last without concrete benefits that are only possible through increased trade, investment

entrepreneurship." Ms. Spero highlighted the material and human resources of the MENA region, but said the full potential of these -- in addition to "its rich culture and history" and critical transportation routes" -- could not be realised because of conflicts "as well as statist and protectionist" economic policies. .

The concept for the Amman summit, she said, "is private-public partnership." with the private sector providing entrepreneurial talent. investment capital and technical expertise and the government improving the economic environment through "liberalising trade policies, privatising industry and improving the investment cli-

The groundwork for business economic development is being laid through several means, she said. These included setting up the three regional institutions -- with public and private sector participation -- encouraging regional countries to liberalise economies and develop a free market approach to development, deepening contacts between the public and private sectors as well as within the private sector, and preparing actual development projects

in the region. "We expect that there will be an emphasis on projects involving more than one country in the region," said Ms. Spero. However, that does not mean that American or other businessmen may not take an interest in infrastructure projects in Jordan,

Continued from page 12) far as the wealthy Gulf states but their interest will be contingent on the financial returns of the projects. These

could include public utilities owned and operated by the private sector under specific agreements with the govern-The Amman summit,

"We in the United States have no illusions that prosperity will come quickly or easily to the region," said Ms. Spero. "The road to economic development is a difficult one. However, the event in Amman will provide opportunities and incentives to start the process."

tion accompanying him

would not be meeting the

defector, nor had they sought

spokesman.

such a meeting, said the

Dennis Bauchard, who now

heads the Middle East and

North Africa desk at the

spokesman of the ministry

and other senior ministry

#### French minister arrives today

(Continued from page 12) ment between Jordan and France to replace a 1965 accord.

which will be more focused

than the 1994 Casablanca

summit -- where the concept

of public-private sector part-

nership in economic devel-

opment was first introduced -

and will deal in depth with

trade and industry, infrastruc-

ture and finance and the eco-

According to the spokes-man, the fact that Mr. De Charette chose to visit Egypt and Jordan — the two Arab countries have signed peace agreements with Israel - "is indicative of the importance France attaches to the Middle East peace process."

The minister believes that "he has a lot to learn from the experiences of the two countries, which have greatly contributed to peace in the Middle East," and also wants to hear from the leaders of the two countries their views on other regional issues as well, the spokesman told the Jordan Times.

The situation in Iraq is also expected to be discussed in detail in the wake of the recent developments, including the defection of a highranking Iraqi official. Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, to Jordan.

Mr. De Charette or any

On the new cultural agreement, the embassy spokesman noted that Jordan and France signed their first accord on cooperation in cultural affairs in 1965 when Charles de Gaulle was president of France.

officials.

'Since then a'lot of things have happened and we need to update the agreement to include more areas of copperation in the field of culture archaeology for example. said the spokesman.

Mr. De Charette arrives late Monday and will be the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Sharif Zeid before launching official talks early other members of the delega- Tuesday.

#### Expulsions not on agenda

(Continued from page 12) "The UNHCR has made the decision to send emergency aid, particularly medical supplies," Panayotis Moumtziz, UNHCR foreign relations head, said.

"We want to start sending assistance immediately. But we are waiting for permission from the Egyptians to cross into no-man's land. So far we have received no response to our request," Mr. Moumtziz

Mr. Moumtziz, who visited Salloum on Thursday, said the UNHCR requested permission from Egypt to provide aid to the stranded "two weeks ago, but Cairo re-

problem at the border. The UNHCR has contacted Amman to gain permission for the Palestinians to cross Jordanian territory to. the West Bank, he said.

fused, denying there was a

ine summit will offer opportunities for businessmen and government decision-makers to exchange views and experiences, "pursue opportunities and follow-up on deals," said Ms.

> with the American hemisphere.

(Continued from page 1)

The delegation will include er changes during the night."
NATO and the U.N. had given Bosnian Serbs besieging the capital until 10 p.m. French foreign ministry, the (2000 GMT) on Sunday to 'show "substantial progress" in pulling out the weapons or face further attacks.

NATO ordered the pause in its air raids on Serb military positions after they promised on Thursday to pull back mortars of 82mm and larger and artillery of 100mm and

NATO jets roared over the Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale on Sunday morning as a reminder, a Reuter reporterthere said A Serb convoy of howit-

zers, mortars, two rocket launchers and six T-65 tanks was withdrawing from Krupac, 12 kilometres south of the city centre. Mr. Holbrooke said after a

Saturday night meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade he had cleared up some confusion over whether 82mm mortars and 100mm artillery were to be included in the withdrawal from the exclusion zone.

Later U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon said in Sarajevo Serbs had orders to include these guns in the pullback. The Serbs, despite coming under fierce allied bombard-

ment since Aug. 30, had previously refused to budge. fearing the Bosnian government would exploit a pullback to regain land.

Serb arms removal slow

#### In northwest Bosnia, Muslim and Croat forces claim now to have wrested about 4.000 kilometres of territory. or eight per cent of Bosnia's entire area, from the Serbs in

a week-long offensive that has turned the tide of the There was chaos in Banja Luka as authorities struggled

to cope with an influx of tens of thousands of Serb ref-Bosnian radio said Bosnian government troops were advancing towards the Serb stronghold. "Our units are

advancing with speed and ... some of them are already advancing on Banja Luka. Between 70,000 and 90,000 Serb civilians were estimated to have reached the Banja Luka region, where roads were jammed and relief groups were delivering aid by

Local Bosnian Serb officials say 100.000 refugees are in or near the city. Pierre Krahenbuhl, an International Red Cross official in the city. put the figure at about

horseback.

"The situation in the city itself is one of complete chaos with cars, tractors and horse carts in every street. All access roads to the city are blocked." said spokesman Mans Nyberg of the U.N. High Commissioner for Re-

Refugees continued to jam roads into the city Sunday, and workers used horses to distribute food among them. the refugee agency said.

# Strife-ridden and poverty-stricken Gazans seek some psychic relief

By Pamela Druckerman Renter

GAZA — In the basement of a bare building in Gaza City, women in long veils huddle around the tiny fi-gure on Um Mohammad, hunched on the dirt floor. When the shrivelled mys-

tic looks up, there is fire in her eyes.
"Swallow your tongues," she hisses in Arabic to the women begging to be next in line for her psychic reading. "Move away, wait your

Every morning, hundreds of Gazans crowd into Um Mohammad's makeshift office in a Gaza slum seeking cures for laziness. desion, spoiled marriages, failed businesses or just plain bad luck.

Like other psychic seers in the strife-ridden Gaza Strip, the shrouded woman waving her arms and muttering Koranic verses offers a semblance of order in an uncertain world.

"They come to get reco-vered," explains Abdullah, Mohammad's cousin and informal bookkeepers who takes the five-shekel (\$1.66) fee from visitors and writes up smen papers inscribed with prophesies and Koranic verses that

they carry away.
"Some people are inhabited by evil devils," says Abdullah. "We recover and reveal the secret." Although her specialty is

exorcisms, many of Um Mohammad's remedies smack of textbook psychol-The wife of a man who had just fled to the West Bank with his lover listened

intently as Um Mohammad spoke woman-to-woman. Live your own life and forget all about this man," advised the seer, rolling up a note inscribed with Koranic verses and pressing it to her forehead. "I'm telling you, he is a womaniser, there is something bad in

Afterwards, a woman complaining of laziness leaned her head against the wall to hear the mystic's singular solution. "If you eat an egg, just

his mind.

eat one egg. If you have a banana, just have one banana," she said.

There are just two hospitals and a smattering of psychological care for Gaza's one million Palestinian residents. The herbal remedies and mystic wisdom of seers like Um

Mohammad are for some

their only "medical" treat-

With unemployment at around 50 per cent and extended families living crammed into overcrowded neighbourhood, many say the stress of daily living particularly under Israeli occupation, which ended last year — requires a su-

pernatural solution. "The Palestinian people were like being in jail, they had nothing to do, nothing to think about, so they were thinking about each other," said another client, Nawal, who had come seeking spouses for her unmarried

"Everybody talks about each other, there's no independence," said Nawal; 35,

tion of a capital market, re-

habilitation of the Middle

East region gathers mechan-

ism. Close coordination is

name not be used. "Watching each other creates doubt and suspicion, and creates problems to be dealt

with here." For Gaza's influential. Muslim bierarchy, the psychics are a threat to reli-

gious authority. "I challenge all the fortune tellers, whether they are male or female, to know 50 verses of the Koran by heart," said Mufti Abdul Karim Al Kahlout, Gaza's chief Muslim leader.

"A fortune teller has no place to interfere," he said. The Muslim scientists said that going and believing in such fortune tellers, or in the ability of the devils to know the future, is a reli-

gious crime." But Mr. Kahlout said he recognised that despite the onset of Palestinian Autonomy, years of political strife had left Gazans with some existential voids which the

psychics were trying to fill. "Palestinians feel the basics of life were missed or were lost," he said. "What is left for the Palestinians to

## Crown Prince outlines Jordan's vision

(Continued from page 1)

and North Africa summit to be held in Amman next month will reflect "a qualitative change from government-inspired and government-led approaches to institution-building."

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's address:

"For all those who will ask as, where is all of this achieving, one of the answers that comes to mind is very clearly the rift. The European Union is seeking to establish a free trade area in the context of the Mediterranean. Then we have to be able to relate to this new development. If East Asia is looking to the Middle East as a half-way house between East and West, then we have to be able to relate to that development in the context of opening Jordan to the numerous

"In the context of intellectual property, in the context of customs union any number of incentives are clearly manifest to those who seek to establish the creation of this energy of economic zones. When I speak of economic zones let me not omit reference to NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Area, and the concept of relating this part of the world, and by extension, the region with which we deal to a sembiousis

"For peacebuilding to succeed it must be institutionalised. Democracy, respect for human rights, greater participation by people in peace-building is offset by the real-

ity of the existence of what I nomic summit, the integrashouldn't describe on such a sunny morning as parallel economy - parallel economies of money laundering, of business deals what I have described with some disdain as business as usual. This part of the world deals in hundreds of millions of dollars with the international community. But my concern is not for the aspects of what I have described as the paralelled economy digging down our hopes and prayers for institutionalised transparency. My concern is for the possibilities of releasing grea-

hot money. "As far as the level of multilaterals is concerned your're well aware that the peace process, the legitimacy of Madrid, produced five working groups. These working groups included clusters of energy, environment, water, refugees and most important a regional economic development working group. The Middle East North Africa summit faces among other things and within the next few days the various draft

ter investment of legitimate

"I want to say that in terms of regional financial mechanisms, regional development bank, regional policy consultation — what is important for us effectively is to feel that we are developing a regional integration of a capital market. I don't personally give too much concern to where these regional instruments have based. They could be based on the dark side to the moon for all I care. But what I do concern myself with is the feeling that the objective of regional ecounder way with other regional partners, with the Palestinians, with Egypt and with Israel. "Yes, it is closer with some than it's with others. But I do

feel that the concept of developing a complementarity between the oil-producing natural resources-rich region of the area, the Gulf region. and the hinterland of the manpower resource-rich north of the peninsula is

"The concept should essentially include the qualitatively rich communities of Israel, Palestinians and Jor-"Let us hope to the parti-

Syrians, the Lebanese and

the broader concept effec-

feasible.

cipation at some stage in the long too distant future the

and the contributors from Morocco to Turkey of up to 300 million people present a formidable new reality in an extended Middle East.

"I know sooner or later about one hundred small and medium-sized industrial projects costing \$1.5 million on average are seeking international and regional partners.

The emerging markets

"It is my hope that the (first) stage of promoting cooperation, as I described to a visiting group of the Israeli Knesset members quite recently, is the process of getting to know one another through meetings and exchange of information and personal contacts. The second stage, with the limitation of the areas and priorities for joint activities, preparing the ground for this... stage which will consists of joint activities in the areas agreed upon could be taken a way as a possible outline for tively of cooperation in the our shared commitment of Eastern Mediterranean to in- the year ahead."

#### **Israel-PLO talks continue**

(Continued from page 1)

out by joint committees once a deal is signed. Mr. Rabin told his foreign minister,

according to the delegate.
Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani earlier rejected pressure, to seal an agreement and warned an autonomy deal could not be reached without an Israeli pledge to evacuate the set-

tiers in the future. "The Israelis don't understand that we have first to agree on the principle that Hebron is a Palestinian city and not a disputed city. We date for their evacuation," he

reached, further talks will have to be put off until mid-October after a series of Jewish holidays beginning with new year celebrations. Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres said earlier they made progress in talks overnight, when

If an agreement is not

Israel presented the Palestinians new proposals on Hebron and other obstacles to a

part," Mr. Peres said. But Mr. Kanafani shot down the Israeli proposals. "I don't see any new practical compromising proposal from the Israelis about Hebron, We must take charge of the city and not just of one build-

ing or another," he said. The other new proposals concerned the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners still held in ecutive authority from the Israeli jails. Israel's Energy legislative council," he said.

Minister Gonen Segev said negotiations on control of the West Bank electricity grid "took five steps backward today."

Mr. Kanafani played down hopes of a Washington signing this week.
"We are not going to be

hostages of a date. We cannot achieve an agreement in such an atmosphere of pressure because we are talking about the life, future and freedom of people." A statement issued by the Palestinian self-rule authority

indicated the PLO might not

attend the Middle East and

North African economic have to agree for a temporary summit in Amman next solution to the settlers and a month if "Israeli intransigence shuts the door of "It is doubtful that Arab parties and regional parties will participate in the Amman economic conference

without real progress on the

Palestinian track," the au-

thority said. Some members of the PLO delegation in Taba have expressed the belief Israel was pushing for a deal before the Jewish holidays beginning next week so that it could go "New ideas were put on to Amman armed with an the table. On Hebron we accord that would ease ecomade great progress from our nomic normalisation with the

Arab World. Saeb Erakat, head of the Palestinian elections committee at the talks, said a breakthrough was made on that issue.

"Peres and Arafat have agreed that the number of members of the elected council will be 82 and Israel has accepted to separate the ex-

### Japan seeks stronger role

Continued from page 1) during World War II.

The Japanese premier also next two years. met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

He is to visit Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip on Monday. Tokyo has already provided \$200 million in aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority

and is expected to contribute the same amount over the Mr. Murayama is on the

fourth leg of a regional tour which has already included Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. He is to travel to Jordan from Gaza on Monday before returning home on

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# Topsy-turvy new World Bank system refigures national wealth

WASHINGTON (AP) — In leased Sunday called "Monisome ways, it's the world turned upside down: Surinam richer in national wealth per-person than Belgium, Gabon than New Zealand. Botswana than Saudi Arabia.

Developed by the World Bank, a new system of measuring wealth attempts to go beyond traditional gauges like gross national product (GNP). The appraisal in-. cludes four ways of assessing societies, only one of which is how much material wealth it

The new method, which bank officials say could take years to perfect, is intended to show how successful a country is in improving the lives of its people. It also is designed to help give a clearer picture of an economy's strengths and weaknesses. The system is laid out in a World Bank publication re-

Baghdad

of banned

traders to 41 from 273.

**ACROSS** 

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Actress Taylor

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22 Tears

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toring Environmental Progress: A Report on Work in Progress." The report, for the first time, folds a country's people and its natural resources into its overall balance sheet.

The system has produced evidence that almost every country, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, rich or poor, has more wealth in its people's productive ability than in the goods they produce. Ismail Serageldin, World

Bank vice president for environmentally sustainable investment, said the system is far from perfected, "just a start, and... very crude." But, he said, it "expands the concept of wealth beyond

money and investments." The system weighs what a society earns against what it consumes in natural resources and other considerations that most people would consider intangibles.

Using the traditional measures of wealth, gross national product, Surinam's 1993 per capita share was \$2,800 and Belgium's was \$17,200. Surinam's wealth under the

amounts to \$389,000 a person, Belgium's \$384,000. Saudi Arabia's gross national product was \$194 billion, or \$11,000 per Saudi; Bostwana's GNP was \$6 bil-

new measurement system

lion, \$4,500 per Botswanan. By the new measure, Botswana's per-capita wealth is \$188,000, Saudi Arabia's \$184,000.

Of the 192 countries ranked, 140 had per-capita wealth of \$100,000 or less. The countries ranged from Ethiopia with \$1,400 to Australia at \$835,000.

The bank issued a disclaimer that said individual country figures may change slightly as the system is refined. But it expects regional patterns to remain intact.

three types of capital: Manmade, the traditional measure of what a country produces plus the roads, water systems, railways and other facilities already in place.

The system quantifies

- Natural, the value of land and water and the riches they hold. Human, the value of

people's ability to produce, how well they're educated, how well they're fed. In addition, Mr. Serageldin

said, bank economists are trying to figure out how to measure social capital, the productive value of families, communities and various social groups that enhance

purchasing power," a foreign diplomat said.

However, in the absence of

a robust tobacco industry in

Iran, the ban on foreign

cigarettes could make them

less affordable to a public strongly fond of smoking.

A pack of Winston and

Marlboro sell here for 80

cents and \$1 respectively,

which is almost half of a

worker's daily salary.

According to official figures,

500 million packs of

cigarettes find their way into

News of the ban came one

day after President Hashemi

Rafsanjani struck an optimis-

tic note on the state of the

country's economy in a speech to leaders of Friday

made by foreign and domes-

tic enemies, the country's

foreign exchange reserves are

satisfactory," said Mr. Raf-

sanjani, according to the offi-

cial Islamic Republic News

Glasbergen

THE BETTER HALF

"Despite a hue and cry

the country each year.

# Iranian ban on cigarette, sweet imports unlikely to affect supply

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A ban on the import of cigarettes and sweets may serve to remind Iranians of the country's economic trou-bles but is unlikely to disrupt the supply.

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, to the delight of its hard-hit The ban, voted in parliatraders, has decided to relax ment last week, covers chewing gum, cookies, chocolate its import regime by remov-ing scores of items from its bars and sodas, which swept ing scores of items from its list of banned foreign goods. The presidential office, in orders carried by Baghdad onto the Iranian market after the 1980-1988 war against Iraq to strong criticism from Islamic hardliners.

newspapers Sunday, reduced the list of goods forbidden to be exhibited and imported by The ruling followed an intense campaign by radicals who are indignant over large It has also allowed traders shocks of foreign cigarettes as to exhibit, but not import, well as American and British another list of 162 foreign goods. The list of foreign chocolate bars in grocery stores at a time when essenitems permitted for import has swelled to 528 from 258. tial goods such as cooking oil, cheese, butter and milk are in Earlier this month, the Reshort supply.

The decision was also the volutionary Command Council (RCC) gave traders a month to clear shops of banculmination of a drive launched two years ago to slash imports in a bid to save hard ned items It said it would mobilise currency to pay back the country's foreign debt of abthe army, police and mem-bers of the ruling Baath Party out-\$35 billion.

The ban, however, may for a crackdown on smugglers prove to be largely symbolic as loads of "futile" products and traders violating the me-But Baghdad traders said are illegally imported or the lists the government smuggled into the country on issued in the official press a daily basis, mainly from Turkey and Dubai, United Sunday meant more or less Arab Emirates, according to

that business would go on as "There is more room for The central bank, which imports in the light of the new rules which I expect to controls legal imports, and other authorities have "repehave a somewhat stabilising atedly stated that imported impact on prices and degoods are limited to essential said a trader in ones," a European economic Shourja, Baghdad's trading

expert said. Tough import regulations

THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

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have encouraged a lucrataive illegal trade in "nonessential" goods, which are often locally produced but do not meet demand or are of inferior quality.

According to official esti-mates cited in the Tehran Times daily, some \$5.5 bil-lion of goods are illegally imported or smuggled every year into Iran — almost half the figure for legal imports. 'Go to any store and you'll

find all sorts of contraband "products," MP Ali-Naghi Khamushi complained during a parliamentary debate. The assembly's "decision

will have no impact on the country's economy, 40 per cent of which is underground," he lamented to interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, who is in charge of the fight against contraband. Under pressure from par-

liament, the government has stepped up a campaign against smuggling and seized goods in the past five months worth five times the amount confiscated during the same period last year.

The intercepted contraband, however, accounts for only 10 per cent of the total goods which illegally find their way into the country, an expert said, basing his esti-mates on official figures.

"Six months ahead of the legislative elections, parliament appears to be seeking to appease a public growing ever more discontent over the economic situation, which continues to curtail its

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54 Two under par

56 Sea swallows

R.U S H

# Omani deficit

Higher oil

prices slash

MUSCAT (AFP) — Higher oil prices and production slashed Oman's actual budget deficit by 34.4 per cent in the first seven months of 1995 despite an increase in spending, an official report said Saturday.

The deficit was cut to 108.7 million Omani riyals (\$282.6 million) in 1995 from 156.7 million rivals (\$430.8 million) in the first seven months of 1994, said the report by the state Omani Development Council (ODC).

It put the total actual deficit in 1994 at 484.9 million riyals (\$1.26 billion), far higher than the previously projected shortfall of around \$760 million. The increase was apparently because crude prices hit a five-year low of \$15.5 during that year.

The ODC said the budget

deficit was cut in the first seven months of 1995 because of an increase in income to around 1.05 billion riyals (\$2.73 billion) from 922.4 million riyals (\$2.39 billion) in the first seven months

Oil revenue grew to 806.2 million riyals (\$2.09 billion) from 672.5 million riyals (\$1.74 billion) in the same

# **Arab Monetary Fund pledges** more reform aid for members

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The around \$2.6 billion in soft Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), a regional IMF-style institution, Saturday pledged more loans and technical assistance for member states to help them push ahead with

economic reforms.

AMF Chairman Jassim Al Manai said reform programmes being carried out in several Arab countries were the only way to tackle persistent balance of payment deficits and other economic

"The AMF will do its best to attain that objective through preparation and implementation of reform programmes and supporting them with medium-term loans," he told participants in a new-

training course on reforms.

"There is no doubt such loans will help bridge the financial gap which exists in some members states and ensure the success of reforms,' he emphasised.

Officials from central banks, economy, and finance ministries of 16 Arab statesare attending the three-week course, the latest in a series of financial and economic educational programmes organised by the Abu Dhabibased fund as part of its campaign to encourage reform in the region.

The AMF has provided

loans to its 21 member states since it was created by the

Arab League in 1976.

The fund, with a capital of around \$1.3 billion, had focused on lending activity to shore up balance of payment gaps. But in recent years, it switched to technical assistance and tied loans to re-forms after balance of payment and budget deficits persisted in most members.

Its technical assistance covers training for senior govern-ment staff, helping members to upgrade investment laws, and drawing up reforms poli-

"Adopting rational finan-cial policies is essential for ensuring the success of reform programmes and consequently achieving concrete results in economic development," said Mr. Manai, a Bahraini who took over the fund last year.

This underscores the need for expanding the sphere of knowledge for Arab cadres so they will better understand the role of financial policies in the reforms and realise the specified development targets," he added.

Mr. Manai said the AMF would step up activities in 1996, with plans to stage six training courses and seminars on economy and finance.

One of them would be held in Tunisia in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

More than half of the Arab League members have launched reforms to revive their economies which have suf-fered under long-standing government control, debt. unemployment, inflation, negative growth and financial and trade deficits. Some of them have re-

ported positive results while others have adopted an optimistic economic outlook Egypt, Jordan and Morocco where reforms have gained momentum, have reported faster growth rates, with their 1994 gross domestic product rising by 1.5 per cent, 5.7, and eight per cent respective-

Saudi Arabia and other major Gulf oil producers. whose coffers were flush with funds in the early 1980s, have also announced ambitious reform programmes to offset a sharp decline in their income.

"We are encouraging all members states to carry out reforms," an AMF source told AFP. "Any country involved in such programmes is not necessarily suffering from serious financial or economic problems but is resorting to such measures to strengthen its economy.

# European bank chief says Israel can help rebuild eastern Europe

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel can play a major role in helping rebuild the economies of the former communist lands in central and eastern Europe, the head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has said.

"I want to work more with you," EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere told top Israeli officials and business leaders at a luncheon in Tel

He has signed an agreement with the state-owned Israel Foreign Trade:Insurance Company aimed at

guaranteeing Israel investment in the region. The bank also undertook to provide Israeli firms with more information on investment pos-

sibilities. Mr. De Larosiere said Israelis are particularly wellsuited to the business climate of eastern Europe because many of them have origins in

that area and speak its languages. More than a million Israelis — about one in five - hail from Russia alone.

The EBRD was established in 1991, after the fall of communism, to help spur business in eastern Europe. It has a capital of \$10 billion which it is seeking to double in coming years, Mr. De

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Larosiere said. The bank both states in the bank, has a relatively high business profile in eastern Europe already. But its involvement in EBRD projects to date has been relatively small.

No figures were immediately available on Israeli trade and investment in eastem Europe.

# By Glasbergen

"I hired an advertising agency to write a lingle about me to make you think I'm fresh, young and exciting!"

# JUMBLE. Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. **SUGES** DIMPIL **GUTHAT** Print answer here : HE

WHY THE DINO-SAUR HUNTER LIKED HIS WORK, Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon. THE Jumbles: CRACK DECRY AWHILE PETITE What the cab driver turned novelist became — A "HACK" WRITER

Peanuts



I THOUGHT WE'D BE FLYING OVER MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS! I THOUGHT I'D SEE THINGS!







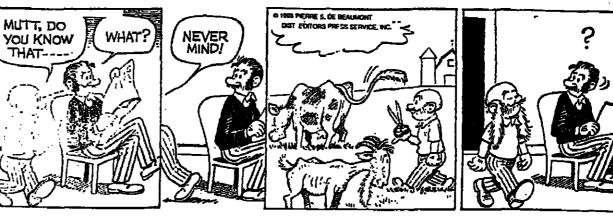




# **Andy Cap**



Mutt'n'Jeff



#### **HOROSCOPE**

FORECAST FOR MON-'DAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson. Astrologer, Carroll Righter

Astrological Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to make your environment more charming and functional and to add greater efficiency to your regular tasks.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a frontal attack on your career activities and get great results at this time. Also get your entertainments set up for the week.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you get home conditions nicely improved this evening, after a busy day today at your busi-

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with those who are successful and work out a plan with them which can also make you more prosperous.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have the right practical method through which you can become more successful. so start putting it to use to-

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If attuned properly you should arise in a more happy frame of mind and can make a fine impression on those who count.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Being with your closest tie and establishing greater harmony between you is wise. Show that you are able to do the right thing. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to see friends you admire today and show that you want to see more of them later tonight. You can enjoy some social pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get deeply involved in your finest activities and you can improve your status with a bigwig more easily.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a day for expansion in business so that you command a greater income later today and have more for the lean times.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Doing what will please the one you love is wise today. Make arrangements for occasional fun later tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get in touch with outsiders today who can be of assistance in gaining your finest aims. Then tonight handle travel matters.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

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#### **TCC \$50m** bonds sell within hours

**☆☆ THE TELECOM-**

MUNICATIONS Corporation's \$50 million bonds were all taken up within three hours after being launched onthe Luxembourg bourse, the minister of communications announced. He said the institutions which covered the issue expressed readiness to raise the ceiling of the bond issue but Jordan preferred to keep the declared ceiling as no additional amounts were required. The bonds were later being traded in European financial markets at prices higher than the face value of the bonds. The minister said an official signing ceremony between the parties concerned will be held at the ministry Wednesday. The bonds has a 7-year maturity at variable interest rates prevailing in international markets (Al Ra'i).

**★★ ECONOMIC AND** agricultural experts are in agreement that the new land parcelling draft law prepared by the Land and Survey Department has many shortcomings. The draft law allows parcelling land into a minimum of four dunums instead of 10. The experts said such a law would result in breaking up the ownership of agricultural land and emptying it of economic context (Al

**☆☆ FORMER PUBLIC** Transport Corporation (PTC) Director-General Suleiman Al Habahbeh was appointed general manager of the newly-established public shareholding Petra Fourism Transport Company. Marwan Khitun has takén over the post of PTC director-deneral (AL Aswaq

. ☆☆ FOLLOWING ARE the mid-year financial results of some public shareholding companies:

- Unified For Organising Land Transport reported a JD 674,424 profit

- Jordan New Cable earned JD 1.93 million from sales and recorded a JD 145.583 profit - The United for Engineering Industries posted a JD 67.277 profit despite earning JD 2.1 million from sales.

- The Union chemical and vegetable oil industries achieved a profit of JD 120.236

— The Jordan Wood Industris (JWICO) reported a JD 168,158 profit with sales exceeding JD 2 million. - The Arab Investment

and International Trade posted a JD 43,509 profit from JD 1.8 million of sales.

- The Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing earned JD 12.5 million from sales and scored a JD 1.85

million profit. – The Jordan Phosphate Mines' profit amounted to JD 3.57 million of which JD 3.46 million were from the fertiliser unit. Total sales were ab-

out JD 97.6 million. - The Housing Bank posted a JD 4.6 million profit. - The National Inndus-

tries' sales amounted to JD 2.93 million while profit stood at JD 312,238.

- The Middle East Insurance registered JD 429,495 profit.

- The Intermediate Petro-Chemical Industries recorded

JD 1.86 million in sales - The Arabian Steel Pipes Manufacturing registered JD 5.57 million in sales and JD 1.34 million in profit

- The Jordan Electric Power collected JD 44.1 million from sales and posted a JD 1.54 million profit.

-The Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance scored a JD 57.809 profit despite a loss of JD 124.867 at the vehicle department

- United Insurance made a profit of JD 338.881

 The Livestock and Poultry's sales amounted to JD 719,067 but ended up with a loss of JD 268,278

- The Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment posted about JD 9.4 million in sales and JD 1.68 million

# Business opportunities seen increasing in Middle East

By Rick Marshall USIA Staff Writer

NEW YORK — American businessmen and commercial officers from the U.S. embassies in a number of Middle East countries held meetings here last week to share experiences and learn about new commercial opportunities the region offers as it moves toward a comprehensive peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

The meetings were part of a larger conference at which Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and the U.S. ambassadors to Egypt. Israel. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait spoke about the improving political and economic conditions in the region and the U.S. commitment to assisting American businesses find new opportu-

Gary Grappo. economic counsellor at the U.S. embas-

tremendous transformation" which has taken place there over the past year. Between last year's peace treaty with Israel and the upcoming Amman economic summit, Jordan is shifting rapidly toward a new pro-business en-

New legislation favouring foreign investment and liberalising financial markets is being prepared and the public sector is being cut back.

Such things were unthinkable, even a year ago, Mr. Grappo said.

Upcoming infrastructure projects present attractive possibilities for American business. Mr. Grappo stated. The Jordanian government has identified more than two dozen such projects, with opportunities in water, energy. hazardous material. minerals, transportation and

port and airport construction. American companies should also look to Israeli infrastructure projects, according to Barry Friedman. the senior commercial officer at the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. Over the next eight to 10 years. Israel plans to spend up to \$18,000 million. he said, doubling electrical generation, expanding roads and the harbours of Haifa and Ashdod, and building a new terminal at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.

The Palestinian Authority will need basic infrastructure "from the ground up." Mr. Friedman noted. Plans envision the construction of a power generation plant, port facilities, an airport and a desalination plant, he commented.

Progress reports on the Jordan Rift Valley projects will be made available at the Amman summit. The Palestinians also plan to release information about their upcoming projects there, complete with contact lists and a guide on how to do business with the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Friedman said.

linking the Red and Dead seas, however. Mr. Friedman cited the enormous cost of such an

Mr. Grappo was enthusiastic about a plan to build a canal undertaking, while Mr. Grappo commented that

"there are just too many other realistic projects

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING BARK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISAMI TELEPBONE: 607171 / 607179

Neither Mr. Friedman nor

At other sessions, American businessmen shared their experiences in the region with the audience. Several stressed the importance of finding reliable part-

ners and agents as well as the

need to be patient.

Others, such as Robert Prieto of the engineering firm Parsons Brinckerhoff, said his company was becoming increasingly optimistic about doing business in the region. The opportunities are better there now than they have been in years, he stated. The Amman summit, he added, should provide those who attend a good list of potential

# Dubai streets paved with gold for hawkers from ex-Soviet Union

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - Street hawkers from former Soviet republics are making regular trips to the bustling Gulf emirate of Dubai in the hope of making a fast buck from selling a few cameras or cheap sunglasses.

They mingle with the hordes of Indian workers and European, American and Asian businessmen in Dubai, playing cat-and-mouse with Dubai police as they try to peddle their paltry wares. For the past two years

Lubi, 60, has been making the journey from Tashkent in Uzbekistan every two to three months, laving out \$500

higher against the yen.

troubled banks.

Financial

Jordan Times

Cairo Amman Bank

Foreign Exchange Market Summary

(September 11-September 15, 1995)

AMMAN - The U.S. unit appreciated sharply against the

yen last week, while appreciating modestly against the

mark and stabilising against sterling. It ended the week

0.77 per cent higher against the mark and 4.27 per cent

The dollar drifted lower against the mark Monday, while

appreciating against the yen and sterling. The dollar rose against the yen on expectations that the Bank of Japan might intervene in the market to prop up the dollar. The

yen came under further pressure when an official at the

Bank of Japan said that the bank should not help Japanese

The dollar surged above the 100 yen level for the first

time in 15 month Tuesday, as investors shifted their

holdings from yen to European and dollar denominated assets. Analysts indicated that the move was a continuation

of the trend that had started the previous week, when the

Bank of Japan lowered its discount rate. Meanwhile, the

release of U.S. producer prices, howing a decline of 0.1 per

cent in August, reassured financial markets that the U.S.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against other

major currencies Wednesday, especially against the mark

and yen. The dollar rose against the yen on news that the

Bank of Japan continued to show its presence in the market

to prop up the dollar. News that a Japanese mutual fund

had purchased \$500 million worth of U.S. Treasury

securities also lent support to the dollar. Meanwhile, the

dollar appreciated against the mark after the Bundesbank

cut its securities repurchase rate by an additional five basis

The U.S. unit depreciated marginally against the mark

and the yen Thursday on profit-taking. The dollar's decline came after a slew of U.S. economic data was released.

pointing to a weaker economy and prompting expectations

that the Fed might cut interest rates at its meeting on Sept.

26. First-time jobless claims rose 21 thousand, while retail sales rose 0.6 per cent. Excluding autos, retails were flat. The dollar powered ahead against the yen to reach above 104 yen at the end of the week. Comments from the U.S.

deputy treasury secretary, the Bundesbank president, and

the Japanese minister for international trade and industry

that there is room for further dollar appreciation lent

support to the dollar. Meanwhile, analysts indicated that

the dollar's failure to breach the 1.50 mark resistance level

reaffirmed the belief that the market is witnessing yen

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4888 marks,

Sept. - 15 - 1995

1.5500

1.4888

1.2065

5.1190

104.13

5.93

6.62

4.08

0.4291

0.0444

Close

Percent

Change

(0.03) %

(0.77) %

0.79 %

(0.75) %

(4.27) %

Sept. - 15 - 1995

5.62

82.6

4.00

1-Month (%) 1-Year (%)

5.59

6.50

4.06

weakness, rather than dollar strength.

104.13 yen and at \$1.5500 to sterling.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

ерь • 8 - 1995

Close

1.5505

1.4773

1.2160

5,0805

99.68

5.71

6.36

4.10

Sept. 8 - 1995

1-Month (%) 1-Year (%)

Currency

Sterling Pound\*

Deutsche Mark

Swiss Franc

French Franc

Japanese Yen

Сштепсу

U.S. Dollar

Sterling Pound

Doutsche Mark

Dutch Guilder

Swedish Krona

Italian Lira\*

Belgian Franc

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

economy is not facing inflationary pressures.

for her return ticket and staying in a small guesthouse. Bare-footed and wrapped in a gaudy shawl she kept her binoculars and cameras for sale out of sight in a sack, ready to make a quick getaway should plainclothed inspectors make a sudden

Lubi's Russian was poor, but she could count in English or Arabic, a vital aid for selling her binoculars at a bargain 120 dirhams (\$32) a

And she attracted a lot of interest as she sat in the sweltering heat by Dubai's "creek," a harbour stretching right into the city centre

On the other side of the

creek 20-year-old Faruq had less to offer curious passersby — just a job lot of cheap knives and sunglasses at three dirhams (90 cents). An amused Arab in a tradi-

he said. Faruq planned to spend his earnings on clothes and stationary to re-sell in Tashkeni. He knew his profits would be minimal but they are enough to have tempted him back to-

tional white robe bought a

handful "for the children,"

He arrived in the Gulf with a two-week tourist visa which he could extend by 10 days for \$10.

Dubai five times.

His compatriot Sohila. 23. set her sights higher. She left her two-year-old son in Samarkend in the hope of earning enough to buy a residents visa by selling artificial pearls and cheap pocket

Sohila studied Farsi and hoped to make her way up in somehow," he said.

tion of trade and other ties with Iran.

But she was not very optimistic. "I have a friend who worked several months to pay \$7,000 for her visa but she is still waiting for it to be delivered. Everyone's a crook here," she said.

Her husband Rakim Mirsaid joined her during his holidays. Although he is a professor in Samarkand, and has written a thesis comparing epic poetry from Uzbekistan and France, he only earns \$40 a month.

He brought a few old books in French "borrowed" from Moscow University in the hope of selling them, but was mocked by more streetwise compatriots already in Dubai. "You're no businessman, nobody reads here, they told him.

Rakim refused to be downcast, however. "Police chase us and confiscate our goods, but everyone's got to live

## Saudis may buy \$7.5b airliners in phases

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia appears inclined to seek domestic financing for the purchase of U.S. commercial aircraft but the \$7.5 billion order could be staggered to avoid burdening a budget which Riyadh is struggling to

Industry analysts say Rivadh now looks to favour breaking the long-awaited deal into several contracts, making solid orders for some of the aircraft and taking options on the rest.

Saudi Arabia in June said it would buy 61 aircraft from Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. of the United States but no contracts were signed and engine allocations and the complex issue of

financing are still to be announced

"I think Riyadh could sign contracts in the next three months for some planes, which they now can pay for in advance, worth say \$1.5-\$2.0 billion and take an option on the rest," said a U.S. analyst closely following the lucrative deal.

"A couple of years later, they put down more money to exercise an option on more planes and so on until the order is completed by say the year 2002/3," the analyst added.

An Arab expert said Riyadh, strapped for cash in recent years due to weak oil prices, could balance the 1995 budget,

OFWARIAND HARRET SHARE PRICE LIST	-	¥ 17/09/	1995	
COMPANY!S NAME	No. of	AVTAE	PREV.	CLOSIEC
	TRADED	TRADES	CTASING	PRICE
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MIDDLE EXET THUESDAIN SAW	4315	16757	3.420	3.420
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	22900	27480	1.200	1.200
THE GOUSING BANK	1000	2480	2.090	2.480
JONDAN KUWAIT HANK	592	1509	2.700	7 777
Jordan Gulf Bank	3550	3750	1.070	1-070
JORDAN ISLAMIC RANK	2231	8299	3.710	3.720
Business bank Jordan investment a finance bank	14200	53440	3.500	3.700
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VEHICLES OWNERS FEDERATION	600	4230	7.010	7.050
ARAB INTERNATIONAL BOTELS	253	1399	5.650	5.550
Jordan Fational Shipping Times	1500	4120	2,730	2.750
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1500	3105	2.090	2.070
KEAL STATE INVESTMENT	3400	3687	1.130	1.100
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THE JORDAN CEREKT FACTORIES	71511	113277	3.000	3.620
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Intermediate Petro-Chemical Industries Aladdin Industries Fational Camle 6 wife Manufacturing Oordan Sulpro-Chemicals ARAE Center Por Pearm. & Chemicals Inversal Modern Industries	600 105 300 1500 1112 5350	1132 436 1272 2143 2377 17145	1.900 4.250 4.460 1.430 2.140 3.250	1.890 4.150 4.240 1.430
ENTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ALADDIN INDUSTRIES ANTIONAL CAMLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING FORDAM SULPRO-CHEMICALS ARAE CENTER POR PERRM. & CHEMICALS INIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES FORDAM INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	600 105 300 1500 1112 5350	1132 436 1272 2143 2377 17145	1.900 4.250 4.460 1.430 2.140 3.250 2.040	1.895 4.150 4.240 1.430 2.140 3.210 2.000
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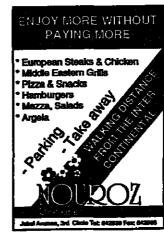
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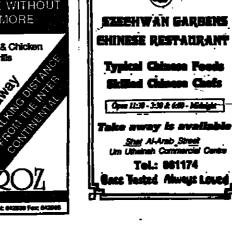
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ATLANTA (R) — With an initial round of test events nearing conclusion. Atlanta's organisers received mixed reviews from hundreds of international athletes competing in 15 events this summer.

Since June 22. Atlanta has tested eight of its 1996 Olympic venues, five of them newly built specifically for

The major Olympic venue to open this year, the 15.000-seat aquatic centre, received high marks from swimmers and divers for its facilities and equally high praise from spectators for the facility's design, which allows a sweeping view of the Atlanta skyline through the open sides of the venue.

Athletes also praised the new rowing venue at Lake Lanier, a 38-year-old, man-made lake about 51 miles (82 kilometres) northeast of Atlanta, and the Georgia International Horse Park, about 40 miles (65 kilometres) east of Atlanta in suburban Rockdale County.

But Atlanta officials concede they will need to make major modifications to the yachting venue based in Savannah. Georgia. and two new field hockey stadiums. During a test event two months ago, yachting competitors complained bitterly about the design of the Savannah venue, which requires sailors and their boats to be towed by motorboat for two to three hours from the main Olympic marina to reach the race course in the Atlantic

"The wind and the water are very good. Everything else is awful." said Fred Herein. coach of the French yachting team in a summary echoed virtually unanimously by sailors from 53 countries in the Nationsbank international regatta. To answer the complaints, officials of the Atlanta

Committee for the Olympic Games said they would install a second marina composed of barges closer to the race course. But the design and capacity of the so-called "Day Marina" still are a matter of debate.

Coaches and players also were harshly critical of the new field hockey stadium tested last month at Clark Atlanta University. Both the Clark facility and a twin field still under construction at nearby Morris Brown College have been designed to be converted later to American football

With American football in mind, the artifical turf field hockey pitch was installed over a crowned subsurface higher in the middle of the field than at each sideline. But the humpbacked design created havoc for field hockey players seeking a true roll on the uneven

After last month's closing-round match in the Atlanta Hockey Challenge Cup. the coach of the losing Spanish women's team, Jose Brasa, said the uneven surface caused the ball to bounce oddly. One of his star players was struck in the face by one such bounce, breaking her cheek bone. The coach and players of the winning Australian women's team here equally critical.

And Els Van Breda Vriesman, secretary general of the International Field Hockey Federation, said: "We are disappointed. We would have thought that the pitch would have been much better.

But the largest overriding problem for Atlanta's Olympic organisers may be the city's notorious summer heat and humidity. Temperatures for several of this summer's events hovered near or above I(0) degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius).

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#### The Swiss Embassy informs that a SWISS CULTURAL WEEK will take place under the patronage of H.R.H. PRINCE RA'AD BIN ZEID from 19th to 24th September 1995 at the

#### Events of the week:

- seven feature films and three documentaries daily at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. see program under "What's going on"

**ROYAL CULTURAL CENTRE** 

- performance "An evening with Dimitri, the lovable clown" September 20th, at 8p.m.
- Exhibition "Swiss Photographers from 1840 until today".
- Exhibition "Face to Face with Switzerland".

A Swiss Gourmet Week is also going on at Rozena Restaurant (near 2nd circle).

TEL: 699238 CINEMA

# Manchester United, Newcastle stay top

LONDON (Agencies) -Paul Scholes scored two goals as Manchester United cruised to a 3-0 home victory over Bolton Saturday, keeping them tied atop the Premier League with Newcastle - a 3-1 winner at home against

Manchester City.
Leeds and Wimbledon entering the round tied for third behind the leaders each stumbled to surprising losses

Leeds lost at home 3-1 to Queens Park Rangers as Daniele Dichio secored twice for the winners. Wimbledon fell 2-0 at Aston Villa on goals by Mark Draper and Ian Taylor.

The win moved Aston Villa alone into third place with 13 points. Newcastle and Manchester United have 15. Arsenal and Liverpool each won matches at home to stay close with 12 points in a

tie for fourth place. lan Wright scored on a penalty in the second half after missing one in the first - for Arsenal's 1-0 home victory over West Ham. The goal came after West Ham's Julian Dicks was sent off in the 66th minute with his second yellow card.

Liverpool kept defending League champions Blackburn spinning with a 3-0 landslide — all goals coming in the first 30 minutes. Jamie Redknapp scored in the 12th, Robbie Fowler struck in the 22, and Stan Collymore followed up in the 29th.

Blackburn has only four points in six matches and is lodged third from the bottom of the 20-team table.

In other Premier League matches: Cheisea 3, Southampton 0; Middlebrough 2 Coventry 1: Sheffield Wednesday 1, Tottenham 3.

Manchester United and Newcastle have each won five of their first six matches of the season and are moving free as the early class of the Manchester United -

playing without injured Andy Cole and a suspended Roy Keane — got two goals from Scholes and the third from Ryan Giggs. playing in only his first start of the season.

Giggs - who missed early games through injury — scored the winning goal last weekend coming off the bench for Manchester United in a 3-2 win at Everton.

#### **GOREN BRIDGE**

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PLAY OR DEFEND? Both vulnerable, North-South

on score. East deals. NORTH 4653 VK72 ŏAQ +A9852

SOUTH **A82**∇QJ10953
0K107

play or uesend a contract or rour hearts by South after the defense starts with the ace of spades and another.

West surely owed partner a raise to three spades when East rebid the suit freely over North's balancing double. The final contract, quite likely, would have been the same.

Once West led the ace of spades, the king of clubs becomes marked with East, so it would seem that the contract must be defeated—declarer has two spade losers, one heart and one club. After banking two spade tricks, East continued with a third spade, ruified high by declarer. Only an endplay could save the contract and, for that to succeed, East had to hold a singleton ace of trumps. Therefore, declarer cashed the ace and queen of diamonds before exiting with a low heart. In with the see, East was able to exit with a diamond and eventually score the king of clubs for a one-trick set.

Declarer was on the right track. After cashing the ace of diamonds, however, declarer should overtake the queen with the king and ruif the third diamond. Now a trump lead does endplay East, who must either yield a ruiff-sluff, allowing declarer's combined tensee.

Despite that, the contract should be defeated. All East has to do after winning the second spade is cash the see of hearts before leading a third spade. With any chance of an endplay eliminated, the king of clubs will take the setting trick. endplay eliminated, the king of clubs will take the setting trick.

Newcastle had few problems with last-place Manchester City. Peter Beardsley put Newcastle up 1-0 in the 17th minute. Seven minutes later Manchester City's Richard Edghill was sent off with his second yellow card. and Newcastle wasn't chal-

lenged after that. Les Ferdinand scored his fifth goal of the season for Newcastle in the 59th to make it 3-0, and Gerry Creaney - in his debut for Manchester City — scored a consolation goal in the 81st minute.

Monaco crash again

Monaco's hangover from their midwest nightmare. when they were beaten 3-0 at home by English opponent Leeds United in the UEFA Cup, continued into Saturday when they were beaten by Metz in the League.

The visitors, the only team with Paris St. Germain still unbeaten since the League season got underway, never looked back after Robert Pires beat Porato with a superb lob after half an hour. Monaco, who lined up with

Belgian schemer Enzo Scifo. twice hit the woodwork efforts by Sylvain Legwinski (54) and second-half substitute Mickael Madar (60) just inches wide. But Metz, efficient and full of running. were good value for their win and are now just one point behind PSG who play Mon-, pellier away on Sunday.

Auxerre continued to storm up the standings after their poor start to the season when they beat Lyon 1-0 away thanks to a goal by Bernard Diomede after just

five minutes. Auxerre are provisionally level-pegging in third spot with Guingamp, 3-1 home winners over bottom club title, on 16 points — four

points behind the leaders. A bomb scare forced a 15-minute delay to the start. of the match between Strasbourg and Nice.

A woman caller rang the Strasbourg authorities at 5.30 p.m. to warn that a bomb would explode in the Meinan stand. She rang a second time and said: "It is very serious, take every pre-

by thumping VFB Stuttgart 6-3 in the Bundesliga on after the recent spate of ter-Saturday. rorist bombings in France. Dortmund, in the dolsearched the stadium and found nothing suspicious.

Officials decided to open the

stadium to the spectators just

half an hour before kick-off.

The match ended in a 1-1

Republic of Ireland striker

Tony Cascarino scored a hat-

trick for Olympic Marseille in

a 5-0 win over Laval in the

second division. Cascarino.

33 and sent off against Caen

last month, has now scored

Atletico keep lead

Narvaez was sent off but

Atletico Madrid stayed top of

the Spanish League on Satur-

victory at fellow pacesetters

Athletic Bilbao.

Compostela on six.

sion football.

entire match.

In Madrid, striker Kiko

eight goals this season.

drums since the Juventus defeat, played much of the match with only 10 men because Knut Reinhardt was sent off for a 16th minute foul.

The outcome took Donmund into third place but still left them seven points behind runaway leaders Bavern Munich, winners of all six games to date.

Bayern had sparkled in a 3-2 triumph at Kaiserslautern

on Friday. Brazilian striker Giovane Elber fired Stuttgart ahead with only three minutes gone but Dortmund replied through their own Brazilian day with an impressive 2-0 import Julio Cesar in the sixth minute and sweeper ,Matthias Sammer four mi-

Rejuvenated Atletico now nutes later. Even Reinhardt's red card have a maximum nine points for a crude foul on Andreas from three matches, three Buck failed to disrupt Borusahead of Bilbao, Espanol and sia's fluid counter-attacks and they went in at halftime 4-1-Atletico have rarely done up with further strikes from well in the intimidating San Mames stadium but this time Heiko Herrlich and the com-

manding Andreas Moeller. they took the sting out of the A Stefan Reuter penalty and another Moeller goal young Bilbao side with confident and composed possescompleted the Dortmund scoring spree in the second Argentine powerhouse period, while Stuttgart hit Diego Simeone and elegant back with goals from Po-Spanish international play-'land's Radoslav Gilewicz and maker Jose Caminero con-

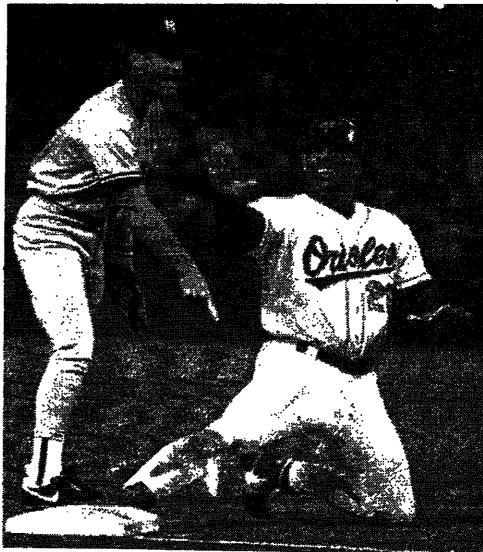
Bulgaria's Krasimir Balakov. trolled the midfield, carving out several good chances for Bayer Leverkusen leapt forwards Kiko and Luboslav over Borussia Moenchengladbach into second place Bilbao seemed overawed with a 2-0 win over Eintracht by the occasion, and created Frankfurt, marked by the reonly one clear chance in the 'turn of veteran midfielder Bernd Schuster from the sub-

stitutes' bench. Dortmund hit Stuttgart for 6 Unbeaten Leverkussen's first home win of the season In Bonn German champions Borussia Dortmund left them six points behind produced the best possible response to their midweek Bayern ahead of next Saturday's top of the table clash in Champions' League drubbing



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Baltimore Orioles' Bobby Bonilla (right) Sig- 16. Bonilla went from first to third on a base nals he's safe as New York Yankees third hit by Cal Ripken, and later scored on a baseman Wade Boggs yells at numpire Larry sacrifice fly off the bat of Harold Baines Young (not shown), that he tagged Bonilla out, (Reuters photo) during action in the fourth inning, September

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# Ahli defeat Iranian champions in opening match

By Allers Desayou Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan's basketball champions Al Ahli Sunday scored a 70-62 win over Iranian champions Asfahan on the opening day of the Sixth Asian Basketball Confederation Champions Cup currently underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The win came as a big boost to Al Ahli who will be facing tough opponents in their upcoming matches. They are grouped with Liaoning of China, Hong Fu of Taiwan and the Philip-.

Group B includes Japan Energy, Kia Motor (South Korea), Sin Kee (Singapore), Punjab (India), and Petronas (Malaysia).

After a one round-robin, the top two teams in each group will meet in the final round. The winners will play for top two places and the losers for third and fourth

HARARE (Agencies) —

African swimming records tumbled as South Africa,

back in the continent's sport-

ing fold, challenged North Africa's long domination of

But a doping scandal cast a

shadow over South Africa's

glory; with one of the team's

track and field stars testing

positive for a banned subst-

South Africans broke three All forfeited Games records

and one African record in

swimming Saturday. Egypt

broke two games records and Algeria and Zimbabwe broke

Officials said competition

at Zimbabwe's new \$10 mil-

lion aquatic complex at Chitungwiza, 25 kilometres (16

miles) south of Harare, was

heightened by the participa-

tion for the first time of South

to compete after all-race elec-

tions ended apartheid in their

country last year, spurred on the Algerians and Egyptians. Herman Louw of South

Africa finished the men's 100-metre breast stroke 1:04.20, just beating the standing African record by an

Algerian of 1:04.41 and the

previous games record of 1.04.95.

medals in the 400-metre women's medley and the 4-

by-200 metre relay. Egypt

won gold in the 100-metre women's freestyle. Algeria's Salem Iles set a new games record in the 200-metre men's freestyle to win a gold. Swimming is not popular in

most African countries, but it has been promoted in comparatively wealthy South Africa

The wealth that can nurture champions is concentrated among South Africa's white minority, and that was reflected in the fact that all the country's swimmers and most of its other athletes at the games were white.

Zimbabwe refuse to play in old kit The Zaimbabwean men's volleyball team refused to play their first match in the All Africa Games on Saturday because they were ashamed to appear in old kit, the state news agency Ziana

The match in Bulawayo: was foreited and their oppo-

nents Cameroon were awarded three points.
"I appealed to them without success," said the treasur-er of the Zimbabwe Vol-

leyball Association, Love-

more Moyo. "We can only

push them to a certain ex-

Noyo acknowledged the team needed new kit. He said t was not clear if they would play their other scheduled:

Ziana quoted Cameroon's head coach, Charles Nganda-

nana, as saying the Zimbab-

weans were using the kit issue

"Probably they are a weak side and realised we were going to trounce them," he said.

Fredericks misses games Promises from All African

Games organisers that mis-

and Arab states.

South Africa also took gold

while the rest of the teams play for fifth-10th places.

Prior to departure Al Ahli's Chhairman Adnan Naghaway had voiced hope that the Jordanian champions, the only Arab team in the tournament, will fare well against other Asian champions but he also noted preparations for the tournament did not go according to plan with many players suffering injuries.

Al Ahli, who are sponsored by Citroen, had also hoped to have a series of training camps in neighbouring countries. However the team had to be content with a series of friendlies against third-placed Al Jazireh and also hosted Iraq's Al Shurta. Al Ahli have been the

Kingdom's titleholders for the past three consecutive years after ending all-time rival Al Orthodoxi's decadelong domination in 1990. They then lost the title in 1991 but came back to win it

Records tumble as South Africa

poses first challenge

sing sprint star Frankie

Fredericks would compete in

the 200 metres Saturday all

Officials announced on Fri-

day that the Namibian runner

would fly in from a meeting

in Tokyo where he ran 20.11

in losing to world champion

Michael Johnson on Friday

They even set the heats

back to Saturday afternoon

to give Fredericks time to

recover from his gruelling

But the heats came and

went without Fredericks,

who won both the 100m and.

200m All Africa Games titles

in Cairo four years ago. Fredericks has insisted for

several months that he was.

not been to come here but.

Games' organisers claimed

they had been in touch with

him this week and had con-

Even Fredericks' Nami-

bian teammates were in the

"The whole team would really be boosted if Fredericks arrived but I have not heard

anything," said fellow 200m sprinter Mberiuana Zepee.
Games' officials are still

smarting that nearly all the

stars of African athletics have

given the games a miss reducing the event to almost

champion Haile Gebreselas-

a second class meeting. Those missing include Ethiopia's world 5,000m

vinced him to run.

came to nothing.

in the past seasons.

The team's Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasha brought about Al Ahli's change of playing tactics to a faster more modern games that allowed them to upgrade their players' style reinforced by the availability of a strong

Al Ahli's lineup includes the team's top stars Marwani Ma'touq, Naser Bushnaq and Yousef Zaghloul. In addition the team includes Ramez Hammoudeh, Riyad Ayesh, Faisal Nsour, Wisam Nino, Walid Badran, Taimour Shamali, Marwan Saeedi, Sami Saduldin and Nihad Madi.

The organisers have allowed each team to register two foreign players in the championship which was revived after three years and will be an annual affair from

Schedule of Ahli's matches

sie, Algeria's world 1,500m

champion Noureddine Mor-

celi, both winners in the

Tokyo meet, women's 1,500m Olympic and world champion Hassiba Boulmer-

ka and women's Olympic

10,000m champion Deratu

positive

A champion long jumper

from South Africa was the

first athlete to test positive

for a banned substance at the

All Africa Games Saturday,

but said she had taken a

Karen Botha, a veteran

international competitor.

said she had not realised a

painkiller prescribed by her

personal doctor contained a

banned stimulant — de-

embarrassed. I took those

(pills) quite innocently," Botha said at a news confer-

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S. African athlete tests

Tulu of Ethiopia.

19/9 Ahli-Philippines 20/9 Ahli-Taiwan

## Eriksson and McRae lead Australian Rally

PERTH (AP) — Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden and Colin McRae of Scotland were tied for the lead Sunday after 20 stages of Rally Australia, sixth round of the world championship.

Eriksson, whose best finish in Australia was second in 1989, held a four-second lead in his Mitsubishi Lancer after 17 stages as overnight leader Juha Kankkunen slipped back to fourth place.

But McRae then recovered ground over three fast, forested sections in the afternoon, taking a share of the lead in his Subaru Impreza. Both Eriksson and McRae had an elasped time of 3 hours, 45 minutes, 10 seconds.

McRae, the winner last year, is aiming for his second straight World Championship victory following his win in New Zealand earlier in the

He and Eriksson were being shadowed closely by Eriksson's Mitsubishi teammate Tommi Makinen of Finland, who was 18 second off the pace in his first Rally Australia appearance since

Kankkunen, a four-time world champion, lost his lead early Sunday and blamed new shock absorbers on his Toyota Celica for some conservative times. Making the problem worse was the fact Kankkunen, as the leading driver, had to deal with the most gravel on the roads.

"It will be very difficult from here," said Kankkunen, a four-time winner of the Australian event who had a time of 3:48.30 after the 20

A fourth-place finish for Kankkunen still would help his bid for a fifth world title after his two main rivals selfdestructed on the second day. His Toyota team-mate Didier Auriol of France, the reigning world champin, rolled on stage 12 and was forced out of the event while Carlos Sainz of Spain retired after he damaged the radiator. of his Subaru on stage nine.

Auriol went into Rally Australia with a one-point lead over Kankkunen and Sainz in the World Championship standings.



LAS VEGAS (R) - Julio

Fighting with a cut over his left eyelid, a bloody nose and trailing on one scorecard and tied on a second after seven rounds, the Mexican superstar staged a furious comeback to escape with his 96th win in 98 fights before a festive pro-Chavez crowd on Mexican independence day at the Mirage.

Chavez. Judge Anek Hongtongkam of Thailand had it 116-112 and Carol Castellano of the United States had it

"I wanted everybody to see, even though they say I'm

still do it in the ring," said the 33-year-old Chavez. "I'm still Julio Cesar Chavez of old." A disappointed Kamau was not impressed.

"Maybe he won two rounds at the most," said Kamau, after suffering his first defeat in 27 fights. A questionable knock-

down of Kamau in the eighth round provided Chavez with a crucial 10-8 round on O'Connell's scorecard. Kamau was counted down

by referee Mills Lane when he hit the floor after a Chavez left jab struck him around the left shoulder. The television replays clearly showed that the challenger lost his footing on the wet canvas as he-was: preparing to throw a counter

punch.
"I wasn't hurt," Kamau said. "He pushed me." -Chavez was cut in the left eyelid by an accidental head

the first round. Chavez bitterly complained afterwards that the American referee had missed the infraction.

"What bothered me the most was that the referee did not interfere after the headbutt," said Chavez, who repeatedly wiped away the blood with his gloves.

In the seventh round Chavez had a bloody nose from the barrage of Kamau's punches.

Chavez was unable to attend a post-fight news conference because he was taken to hospital for further examination of the cut over his left eye, his publicist Gladys Rosa said.

Kamau used his four-inch (10 centimetre) height advantage and longer reach to keep Chavez away with a good left

The closing minute of the 11th round featured rousing

Amin Kawar & Sons Co

action as the two exchanged punishing blows. A Chavez straight right buckled the challenger's legs, but Kamau came back with his own flurry of shots.

Las Vegas. Chavez retained the title by decision in the 12

It was 10 years ago to the week that Chavez, now 96-1-1, won the first of his six world titles in four weight classes when he beat Mario Martinez for the WBC super featherweight crown. Chavez went on to win titles in the lightweight, super lightweight and junior welterweight divi-

Earlier this week, Chavez, citing exhaustion and an assortment of nagging injuries had retreated from his goal of winning 100 fights to simply try to fight 100 times

before considering retiring. Fight number 99 is scheduled against fellow Mexican champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez, the undefeated WBC lightweight champion,

# butt in the closing seconds of old and should retire, I can

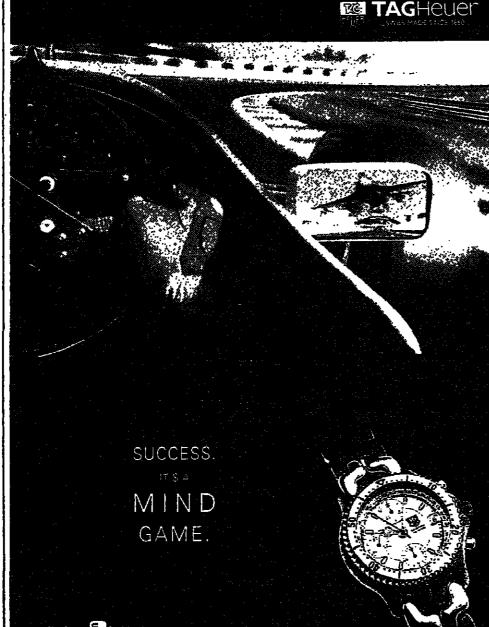
WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez of

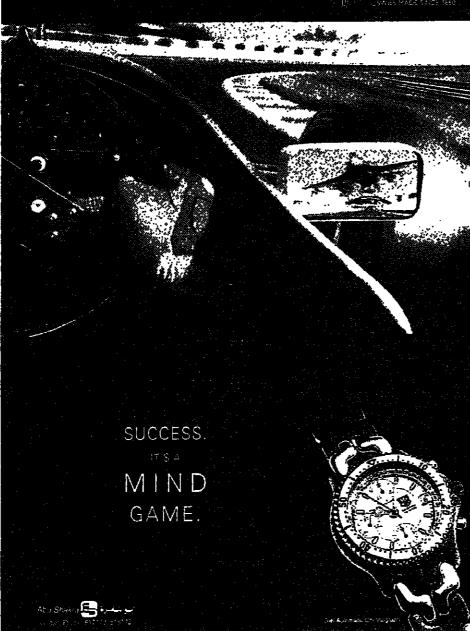
Mexico (left) mixes it up with David Kamau, of Kenya, during third round action on Saturday, at The Mirage in

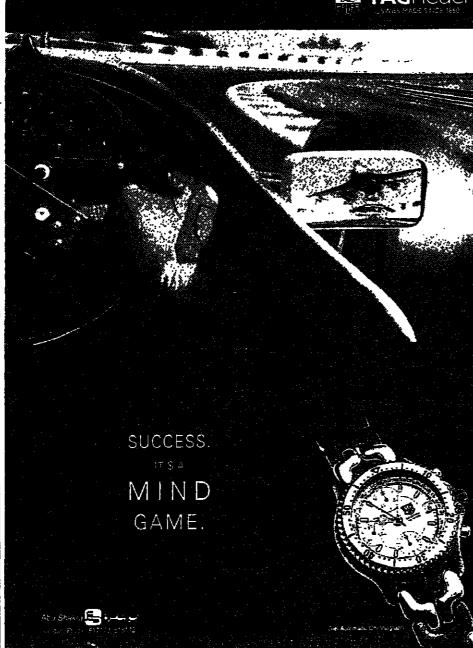
Cesar Chavez survived a bruising 12-round battle with David-Kamau to score a unanimous-decision victory over the Kenyan and retain his World Boxing Council super lightweight crown Satur-

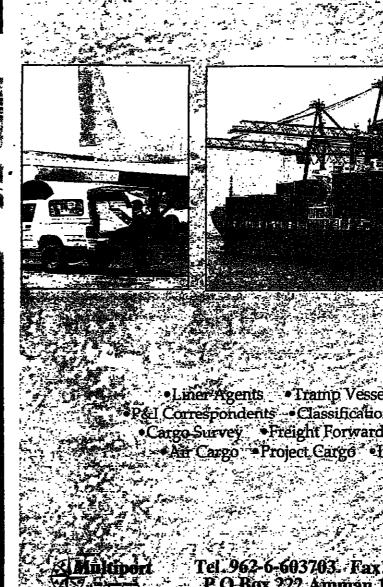
Judge Larry O'Connell of Britain scored it 116-115 for 117-110.

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#### JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1995

BELIING (AFP) — The mystery of China's 'Lake Tianchi monster' may soon be solved following con-

struction of an observation

post to try to identify the

creature. The post, installed

jointly by the Lake Monster

Research Society and a

local television station, will.

be manned by experienced

photographers, said the China Daily. The monster of

Lake Tianchi in the Chang-

province, northeast China,

has been seen dozens of

times by local people and

tourists since the end of the

19th century. But like the

legendary Loch Ness beast

in Scotland no-one has been

able to firmly identify it.

The most recent sighting

was by Beijing and Tai-

wanese tourists who report-

ed seeing its head above

water on July 14. Last year

it was spotted three times.

described it looking like a

dinosaur, a giant buffalo or a

huge iron pot. The Lake Monster Research Society

has offered 10,000 yuan

(\$1,500) to anyone who

succeeds in photographing

Unscheduled swim

undoes clumsy

burglar

WELLINGTON (R) —

Police in the New Zealand

city of Christchurch made

their easiest arrest of the

year after a burglar left his

name and address at the

scene of the crime. Senior

Sergeant Peter Reid said the

burglar was discovered in a

house garage by the owner

of the property. In his haste

to escape, the man fell into a

nearby swimming pool.

Before he could be caught,

he climbed out of the pool

and over a fence and ran

down the road soaking wet.

However, a police sniffer

dog found the man's wallet

which contained his name

and address, lying nearby.

He was arrested and will

appear in court on charges

of breaking and entry.

Witnesses

the monster.

variously

Mountains, Jilin

# U.S. confident MENA conference will launch economic development

Spero says peace not yet perfect, but there is international interest in region

By P.V.Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The United States is confident that next month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman will be the start of a tangible process that leads to the economic development of the region, with the public and private sectors joining a "partnership" for progress, a senior American official said Sunday.

Joan Spero, under-secretary of state for economic and business affairs, also said that despite the spurts of militant violence in the occupied territories and South Lebanon and the deadlock in Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of peace talks, there were clear indications of interest among business leaders to take advantage of the business opportunities available in. the region after the Palestinians and Jordan made peace with Israel.

Ms. Spero was addressing a press conference after talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the ministers of finance, planning and trade and industry on issues related to the Oct. 29-31 MENA

dad on Sunday for talks to

clear doubts about Iraq's past

There are some uncer-

tainties left. We have to

verify the information pro-

vided to us... most important

is to verify the destruction of

all equipments and agents,

Charles Duelfer, deputy chairman of the U.N. Special

Commission (UNSCOM),

Iraq made startling re-

veelations about its weapons

programmes last month, par-

ticularly about its biological

weapons. It admitted for the

first time to producing 200

biological warheads and addi-

tional agents beyond what

enormous amounts of docu-

ments provided by Iraq fol-

lowing the defection to Jor-

dan last month of Lieutenant-

General Hussein Kamel, the

brain behind Baghdad's milit-

biological weapons and re-

lated equipment voluntarily

prior to the outbreak of the

1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

his four-day visit was to try to

make some progress before

UNSCOM submitted its six-

monthly report to the U.N.

Security Council on Oct. 11.

believe Iraq would get a clean

bill of health on the destruc-

tion of its weapons of mass

But he said he did not

Mr. Duelfer said the aim of

Iraq said it destroyed all its

ary industries.

U.N. experts are analysing

was previously disclosed.

told reporters on arrival.

germ warfare programme.

U.N. official in Iraq

to verify germ data

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — information it had newly pro-A senior United Nations arms official arrived in Bagh—needed time and effort to



Joan Spero

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince. in his meeting with Ms. Spero, expressed hope that the summit would be a forum for exchange of views on investments and efforts to rehabilitate the economies of the Middle East.

General preparations for the summit, projects to be submitted at the forum and U.S.-Jordanian cooperation to ensure the success of the conference were the focus of the discussions that Sharif Zeid held with Ms. Spero, Petra said.

The American official, who described her talks here as a periodic exchange of views, told the press confer-

analyse.
"There is enormous con-

mical weapons programmes

as well as its long-range bal-listic missiles — all banned by

U.N. resolutions ending the

1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait

will focus on the biological

begin his talks later Sunday

with General Amer Rasheed,

Iraq's oil minister who has

headed the Military Indust-

rial Organisation since Gen.

Baghdad must eliminate its

weapons of mass destruction

before the United Nations

will ease the sanctions im-

posed on Iraq after it invaded

The chairman of UN-

At a regular review in

September, the Security

Council kept the sanctions

after Iraq admitted having developed a powerful germ

warfare programme, includ-

ing loading 160 bombs and 25

warheads with biological

SCOM, Rolf Ekeus, is due to

visit Baghdad in about two

Kuwait in August 1990.

weeks, Mr. Duelfe said.

"We will cover all but we

Mr. Duelfer said he would

from Iragi occupation.

area," he said.

Kamei defected.

indeed among the key factors that influenced investment decisions, but that what has been achieved so far in the four-year-old Arab-Israeli peace process -- despite its hiccups — was "impressive."

"I think that it is no doubt that one of the deterrence historically to invest in the region is instability and conflict," in addition to state-dominated economies, she said.

However, although a comprehensive peace has not been achieved in the region as a result of the agreements between the Palestinians and Israel and the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, "there is more receptivity and more interest by business executives" in

"I don't think that the Amman summit could have taken place before the peace process had reached some fruition between Israel and the Palestinians, and between, Israel and Jordan," she said.

"It is not perfect...it does not mean comprehensive peace in the region...but it is a very good start," said Ms. Spero, adding that the expected level of participation at the summit by government and international business

(Continued on page 7)



ENVOYS SWORN IN: Five Jordanian ambas-Madadha, permanent representative to the sadors Sunday took the oath of office before United Nations European Headquarters in His Majesty King Hussein at a special cere-Geneva, Ahmad Muhaideen, ambassador to mouy held at the Royal Court. The Ambassa-Libya and Samir Masarweh, ambassador to dors are Mohammad Kheir Muqbel, Jordan's Italy. The ceremony was attended by Royal ambassador to Algeria, Mohammad Amin Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, and Foreign Shahinkri, ambassador to Sudan, Mohammad Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti. Ali Qudah, ambassador to Oman, Abdullah

## PLO does not want Libyan expulsions on league agenda

are stranded on the Libyan-

Egyptian border after Tripoli

official in Cairo said most of

them had been living in

medical aid, the official said.

Libyan leader Muammar

Qadhafi began deporting

Palestinians in early Septem-

ber in a bid to show up the

"failure" of the self-rule deal

between Israel and the PLO.

out of Libya has tapered off

in the past two days after

intense Arab pressure on Tri-

poli. But Libya has not said it

will accept back the depor-

The flow of Palestinians

over two weeks.

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Sunday it does not want the issue of Libyan expulsions of Palestinians put before the Arab League in its session

direct diplomatic contacts rather than in noisy meetings," the PLO's representative to the league, Moham-mad Sobeih, told AFP.

Mr. Sobeih said the issue of Palestinian refugees in general was permanently on the league agenda and would be discussed at the 104th session of the league council of foreign ministers, to be held in Cairo on Wednesday. "I don't rule out that bi- or trilateral meetings might take

place between league officials. Palestinians and Li-Egyptian border officials said Jordan has refused entry to 20 Palestinians thrown out of Libya, forcing their return to the Libyan-Egyptian ber-

The United Nations High Palestinian refugees (UN-RWA) to open the session after a Palestinian request," Dr. Abdul Meguid's spokes-Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cairo said it was waiting for permission from Egypt to deliver aid to the stranded Palestinians. whom it said remained in

"appalling" conditions.
The 20, thrown out of Libya on Friday, crossed Egyptian territory in three quarters in Vienna have not confirmed that Mr. Turkman port of Nuweibeh in order to minibuses to the Red Sea sail to Jordan, a border offi-

At least 150 Palestinians Amman refused them entry on Saturday because they ejected them. An UNRWA held residency papers for the Gaza Strip. Egyptian authorites ordered them to return

to Libya, the official said. "appalling conditions" for In Jordan, officials had no comment on this particular UNRWA was waiting for permission from Egyptians to case, but said Amman would not allow Palestinians to encross into no man's land to ter who did not have Jordaprovide them food, water and

nians passports. The Palestinians went to Cairo, where they appealed to the Palestinian "embassy" to help them gain entry to Gaza or Jordan, the official Egyptian news agency MENA said.

Mr. Sobeih denied that the 20 had been to the bureau but confirmed that they had been expelled by Libya and re-

fused entry to Jordan.

But the border official told
AFP that Palestinian officials told the group to return to

Libya, saying contacts were being made for their entry. Minibuses carrying the 20 Palestinians returned to the Salloum border post on Sunday, officials there added.

Meanwhile, soldiers from the Egyptian army began supplying food and water to the Palestinians already caught in no-man's land between Egypt and Libya, anotther border official said. Many of the stranded have

been camped out on the border for over two weeks. (Continued on page 7)

#### French foreign minister Observation post to track China's arrives lake monster

By P.V. Vivekanand Special to the Jordan Times

today

AMMAN - French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrives here late Monday on a 24-hour visit for talks on the Middle East arrives here late Middle East arrives here late Middle East arrives here arrives here arrives here are arrives here. Middle East peace process, the developments in Iraq and Franco-Jordanian relations, a French embassy spokesman said Sunday.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minis-ter Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti are expected to hold talks with Mr. De Charette.

The spokesman said Mr. De Charette, on his first visit to the Middle East after joining the cabinet formed by President Jacques Chirac in June, will also discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in former rugoslavia.

Another key issue for Mr. De Charette's talks here will be French participation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman Oct. 29-31, the spokesman said.

The minister will stress the importance with which France sees the summit and will also announce the level of French participation in the summit," said the spokesman.

The talks are also expected to touch on economic cooperation and Jordan's bid to secure debt relief from Western creditors, including France, which holds about \$600 million of the King-dom's foreign debts. Negotia-tions are scheduled for later this month on an agreement under which France will offer about \$70 million of the debts for conversion into investments in Jordan under terms

favourable to investors. One of the highlights of the visit of Mr. De Charette, who will arrive from Egypt and will return home Tuesday afternoon after a press conference here, will be the signing of a new cultural agree-

(Continued on page 7)

this week.
"We prefer to have this problem solved through

byans on the sidelines of the séssion," Mr. Sobeih said. League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid has invited the head of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for

man Talaat Hamed said. Ilter Turkman would "present a full report on the status of UNRWA and of the Palestinian refugees," Mr. Hamed said. UNRWA head-

Public massacre reported in Algeria

appeared, they took revenge on their families instead.

Algeria has been racked by unrest since 1992 when the military-backed government annulled elections which the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the continuing bloodshed. On Saturday Mr. Zeroual

signed a decree enabling the some 12.6 million electors to vote and he insisted that the administration would remain

However, he has still not declared whether he himself will stand. Many say he will do so eventually and if he does, he would be the favourite ahead of the 16

declared candidates so far. The fact that many opposition parties, including the FIS, have refused to take part will also help him. They have also called on people to boycott the poll. Mr. Zeroual, a 54-year-old retired general, took up his post in January 1994. He will have to declare whether he is standing by Oct. 2.

The daily La Tribune reported that "there is no longer any doubt" Mr. Zeroual will announce his candidacy after a meeting Tuesday with military chiefs.

"A consensus have been achieved - with difficulty according to some - on Liamine Zeroual (standing)," it added.

Meanwhile, security forces have dismantled a number of bomb-making networks in Sidi Moussa, where a lorry carrying 500 kilos of explosives was stopped, in Oran in western Algeria and in the fundamentalist Eucalyptus quarter of the capital, according to media reports.

### terrier inherits

Welsh border

#### \$77,500 from owner LONDON (R) — A Welsh

border terrier was £50,000 (\$77,500) richer after her owner named her as one of the chief beneficiaries in his will. Widower John Jones of Gloucestershire, southern England, who died in January at the age of 89, left the money to his pet terrier Whisp so that she would be cared for after he was gone. "I expect she'll start getting expensive tastes now. She'll 🐇 be able to afford to go for walks in taxis," Jones's nephew Peter Hickman said. Jones stipulated in his will that the money should be used to find a suitable home for the dog and provide her with food and medical care.

#### Brown dwarfs exist in space, astronomers say

LONDON (R) - Spanish astronomers have made the first discovery of a brown dwarf, a class of space object somewhere between a star and a giant planet, the weekly Nature magazine said. The brown dwarf has been named Teide 1 and is situated in the Pleiades Cluster of stars, located around 400 light years away and estimated to be 100 million years old. Astronomers 🦸 have long predicted the existence of brown dwarfs. also called failed stars. They are star-like objects not quite large enough to support the thermo-nuclear ignition that would enable them to shine like stars.

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

destruction in October as the agents in December 1990.

#### Libyans in Baghdad to recruit teachers

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Libyan officials have signed deals here to recruit Iraqi teachers for schools and universities at home, in t first such agreement with Iraq, a Libyan diplomat said Sunday. The delegation has signed contracts for the 1995-1996 academic year since they arrived 10 days ago, the diplomat said, requesting anonymity. Iraqi teachers have been recruited individually since the U.N. Security Council slapped an economic embargo on Baghdad after it occupied Kuwait in August 1990. Some have also been recruited by schools and universities in Yemen. The diplomat said Libyan universities need professors. Libya has in recent days expelled thousands of Palestinians

#### Iran criticises Britain over Rushdie

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran has criticised Britain for meddling in talks between Tehran and the European Union (EU) on the fate of threatened author Salman Rushdie, the Iran News said Sunday. Iran refused last week at a meeting in Madrid of the EU troika - France, Spain and Italy - to commit in writing not to support or take any action to harm the British author, who is under an Iranian death sentence for blasphemy. Tehran's refusal to give the written pledge, as demanded by the EU, is "unacceptable," a British Foreign Office spokesman said Tuesday, adding that EU officials would meet shortly to draft a "clear message" to the Islamic republic.

#### Baghdad publishes defector's letter to Saddam

cern" that equipment for BAGHDAD (R) - Iraq making biological weapons is destroyed, Mr. Duelfer said. published a letter on Sunday There are some uncerwhich it said was written by tainties to lift," he told repordefector General Hussein He said he would also dispoorly-educated sycophant. cuss Iraq's nuclear and che-

Baghdad's state-controlled newspapers ran a copy of a letter which they said showed there was no truth to General Kamel's assertion since his defection last month that he had opposed government policy when in Iraq.

The letter, addressed to father-in-law President Saddam Hussein, was dated Oct. 13, 1994 when Iraq withdrew the forces it massed close to Kuwait's borders after a huge counter build-up by United States and its allies in the

region. "Dear sir. It is not important that the sanctions be lifted. No by God. What is important is to see the world mentioning your name everyday," Gen. Hussein Kamel

said in the letter. "Our hope is being materialised. May God be with you sir and our souls are nothing before your excellency," the

Read in full on television, the letter is the latest attempt by Iraq to discredit Gen. Kamei Hussein who has knowledge of the country's secret weapons programme.

"Any neutral observer does not need further evidence to understand his (Kamel's) reality as a charlatan and not as he tried to depict himself as if he represented a different lobby other than that of the state, the regime and its leadership," a television commentator said.

education as it had several grammatical and spelling mis-Gen. Kamel, who quickly rose to the most senior position in Iraq after President

The hand-written letter

shows a low standard of

Saddam, was a dropout with only a primary school education. The mastermind of Iraq's military and civilian industries, he and his brother Saddam Kamel, President Saddam's chief bodyguard, fled Iraq accompanied by their wives who are daughters of

President Saddam. "My kisses to you sir. We are your small children under alert all the time and for anything... my dear sir. my great. sir. said the letter. "Oh dear sir.. you are our great bonour and glory. You are the tent whose shade is the only thing we have." the

# would attend.

ALGIERS (AFP) — Fifteen villagers, half of them women and children, had their throats slit by an armed commando in the latest of a series of savage attacks ahead of presidential elections, the daily Al Watan reported Sun-

day.

The report said other residents were forced to watch the massacre before the guerrillas destroyed part of the village of Boukrane, a reputed fundamentalist stronghold. An unidentified comman-

do of about 50 men armed with Kalashnikovs, hunting rifles and automatic pistols entered the isolated village near Lakhdaria, 70 kilometres southeast of the capital, late Thursday.

together and called out certain names, but when only four of those on their list

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan said on Sunday it

would put on trial a number

of students who took part in

violent anti-government de-

monstrations which left at

"All students arrested dur-

ing the demonstrations have

been released, including

those against whom there is proof of their participating in

nots," Police Commissioner

Abdul Moneim Sayed Sulei-

But the latter "will be pro-

secuted," General Suleiman

said, quoted by the daily

Gen. Suleiman did not spe-

cify the number of students

who would be put on trial.

Security forces arrested up

to 500 people, including 270

students, in Khartoum and

other cities during the wave

of protests that erupted on

Monday, the Sudanese Hu-

man Rights Organisation

Gen. Suleiman, who did

not give a total number of

arrests, confirmed a SHRO

report that Ethiopians and

Akhbar Al Youm.

(SHRO) said.

man said.

least three dead last week.

Four children, two under six, and seven women were among the victims killed as the armed men "ordered the

other villagers to watch the Then they destroyed 10 homes with a bulldozer and set fire to the town hall,

hours later. damentalist opposition to presidential elections due on Nov. 16 which the armed Islamic groups have vowed to

They gathered the villagers

shops and vehicles before quitting the village some four. The attack came amid fun-

prevent ever taking place. Algerian President Liamine Zeroual this

weekend denounced their violence as a "vain threat" which would not stop the election going ahead (see

Eritreans were among those

Sudan has accused Addis

Ababa and Esmara, as well

as local communists, of stir-

ring up students into rioting.

plomatic ties with Sudan,

while Khartoum's relations

with Addis Ababa have

soured since Ethiopia ac-

cused it of backing a June 26

attempt to kill Egyptian Pres-

ident Hosni Mubarak on its

Eritrea has broken di-

rounded up by police.

Khartoum to try student protesters while opposition parties said six were killed in the demonstrations which started after

> The Sudanese bar association was to meet Sunday to

ber Ali Ahmad Nasri told the "Conditions in the capital рарег. and the rest of the country are quite stable and there is nothing that disturbs security," the police chief said, noting that final exams were now underway at universities where protests began.

Gen. Suleiman praised the performance of his corps, saying police "intervened decisively and resolutely" when demonstrations turned into riots due to "non-student elements, like street boys and

The official death toll from the unrest stood at three. police arrested three students from Khartoum University.

look into the situation of lawyers arrested during the troubles, Akhbar Al Youm The bar was "concerned with proper application of the law" in the arrests, bar mem-

But the association "would not hesitate to lift immunity from any member proved to have participated in activities contrary to the laws of the state," said Mr. Nasri, who also is head of the SHRO.

Authorities said on Saturday they would soon release two leading leftist lawyers; Mustapha Abdul Qadir and Ali Ahmad Al Sayed, who were arrested during the pro-

Kenyan authorities have released a Sudanese opposition figure in Nairobi but a said.

second threatened with deportation to Sudan is missing, the opposition Umma Party

Police on Saturday re-

said Sunday.

leased Faisal Mustapha, a member of the National Unionist Party, after discovering he had a Zimbabwean passport, said Umma spokesman Abbas Al Faki in Cairo. But Bashir Ahmad Solman, head of the Umma

office in Nairobi, who also had political asylum in Kenya, remained in custody and "we don't know where he is now," Mr. Faki said. The two were arrested during dawn raids on their homes in the Kenyan capital

the airport, said another Umma official, Abdullah Al Mahdi. The arrests took place "in

and were then held in a cell at

conspiracy with the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi under the direct supervision of the head of Sudan's foreign security. General Mohammad Ahmad Al Dabi, currently in Kenya," an Umma statement